



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Communiqués Threaten U.S., USSR, Poland, UK

JN2304083990 Amman AL-HADAF AL-'ARABI
in Arabic Apr 90 p 1

["Text" of Communiqués No. 2 and 3 issued by the General Command of the Front of the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine—place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Communique No. 2 issued by the General Command of the Front of the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine under the command of Hasan al-Hasan.

In reply to the Polish Government's decision to increase its flights to Israel and to transport Soviet Jewish emigrants to Palestine, the General Command threatens to blow up Polish airline and shipping offices wherever this is feasible. The General Command also threatens to blow up Polish embassies and to physically liquidate the ambassadors and employees in these embassies, also wherever this is feasible. The same applies to the Soviet embassies and those working in them unless these countries rescind their decision to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Palestine, or unless they welcome them on their territory via air, sea, and land.

Communique No. 3 issued by the General Command of the Front of the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine under the command of Hasan al-Hasan.

In reply to the campaign against fraternal and Muslim Iraq, the front will silence the British Government in the manner it deems fit if the United Kingdom does not suspend its campaign against Muslim Iraq. The front also threatens the United States that it will destroy 173 U.S. companies working in the Arabian Gulf, in addition to sniping at important U.S. figures, including ambassadors, if the United States continues to threaten fraternal and Muslim Libya, particularly the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant. Any action against any Muslim country is viewed by the front as an aggression against all Muslims. Those who carry out such aggression will regret it.

Palestinian Affairs

Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No. 55

JN2004204890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO
in Arabic 1848 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Text" of Call No. 55 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—place, date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Call, call, call; no voice rises above the voice of the intifadah; no voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO; call issued by the

Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI], Call No. 55, call of Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the independent Palestinian state.

O masses of the intifadah, it is inevitable that we start with the heart of Palestine, with Jerusalem, the most sacred place, which is subjected to demented and extortionist taxation campaigns and to armed settlements and provocations, and whose Muslim and Christian inhabitants have stood united in the face of the despots. Greetings to those who are standing fast. We pledge to them that we will persevere until freedom and peace are attained in the city of peace.

From the heart of Palestine to the Arab world, the UNLI denounces the crazy campaign against fraternal Iraq. It also denounces the campaign which preceded it against fraternal Libya and proclaims its full solidarity with them.

Our militant masses, any fierce and escalating confrontation calls for reform and for carrying out changes in the means used to confront the enemy, to confuse it, and deprive it of the opportunity to adjust itself to the militant activities that are carried out against it. As workers of miracles, and since you now have succeeded in vanquishing 29 months of repression and despotism, it is only natural that our enemy has begun to catch its breath to resume its attempts to extinguish the incandescent flame of the intifadah. This makes us duty bound to reassign the militant activities to the vital and creative aspects of this sacred revolution and to introduce the appropriate tactical changes to wrest the initiative for the second time and wreak havoc among enemy ranks.

O martyrs, O masses of sacrifices and bountiful offerings, our basic objective in the field and the slogan of our confrontation remains the boycott of the occupation's administrative, procedural, economic, and taxation organs, while working at the same time to develop and organize the Palestinian national authority. Civil insubordination and building ourselves up are two sides of the same coin. We must keep in mind that we cannot attain our objective of comprehensive insubordination as long as we do not persistently work to develop our substitute authority. This is our basic objective. As for our political objective, it remains that of garnering world support for our legitimate rights to freedom, independence, and the entrenchment of the contradictions in the Israeli society to increase the number of those who support our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state, and activate the political moves that support these objectives under the leadership of our legitimate command, the PLO.

Proceeding from this principle, and in light of the need to reorganize this sweeping popular revolution and to prevent a dissipation of its energies or a deviation from its sound course in confronting the enemy, or from its meaningful endeavor to strengthen and embody the institutions of our independent state, the UNLI reiterates the following points:

—Popular action:

The UNLI calls on all the sons of our people, regardless of age or position, to take persistent and serious action to set up committees in every quarter, street, and area. Let these committees be a militant tool for a popular participation in the everyday life of the intifadah and a solid nucleus for popular security, educational, guidance, agricultural, and other committees. The UNLI also urges the strike forces to fully coordinate with the quarters' committees to provide security and protection for the residents of these quarters. In this field, the UNLI also calls on all the elements of the strike forces not to use [words indistinct] in dealing with the masses unless it is necessary [words indistinct] in confrontations with the enemy authorities to prevent the enemy and its agents from exploiting this phenomenon to spread confusion and sedition among the masses.

—Strikes:

The UNLI stresses that strikes are a show of protest that have their own psychological and propaganda advantages. However, in order not to turn them into a tool that will satisfy the enemy, enabling it to organize itself to confront them because of their predictability, and in order not to allow them to become a suffocating factor, the UNLI announces that it will reprogram the strikes in various new ways. The UNLI also stresses that strikes do not mean staying at home; strike periods should be used for various activities, including protest marches, confronting the occupation authorities, and deepening the concept and practice of independent Palestinian decision making under the supervision of the quarters' committees and the strike forces.

—Social solidarity:

As the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, may God reward it to the Arab and Islamic nations with goodness, the UNLI stresses the need for the quarters' committees to carry out their duties toward the needy families, and for each committee to shoulder its full responsibilities toward the residents of that quarter or area. Let our energies be directed toward more confidence and love among the sons of our people. The UNLI also urges the sons of our people to help those who are pursued, as well as the intifadah's heroes and their families. They also should help the families of the detainees and martyrs, along with the bearers of the green cards, with employment and support. The UNLI also urges owners of factories and the wealthy people to organize a program [words indistinct].

—Infighting:

The enemy managed to take propaganda advantage of the phenomenon of Palestinian infighting—personal, familial, and tribal. The enemy encourages these differences through its agents. Therefore, we should realize that much of this phenomenon, and the fertility of its

soil, are due to not directing the effective popular energies toward the real goal—the occupation authorities—which causes a state of psychological frustration and internal combustion.

In light of this, the UNLI calls on our masses to be very alert in order not to be dragged into the labyrinth of secondary differences. The UNLI announces—as of today—a national charter and a blessed historic pledge; that is, that Palestinian blood must not be shed by Palestinian hands, and that personal differences must not be hidden under factional or political guise. The UNLI announces here the sacredness of its unity and the unity of all elements and independent and organized functionaries that stand with it in the national trench to confront the occupation and embody the revolution of independence.

On this occasion, the UNLI calls on all factions to promote national unity ties among them. It affirms the need to renounce the tendentious rumors against national figures and parties such as the ones propagated in Bayt Sahur.

—Agents:

The enemy also benefitted from the phenomenon of assassinations of the [Israeli] agents and disfigurement of their bodies. The execution of agents has so far not ended the existence of those agents and their disgraceful acts. Consequently, the UNLI, together with its executive elements represented by the strike forces, affirms that death sentences can only be implemented upon orders from the higher authorities. The strike forces will continue to monitor the moves of those agents, to pursue them, organize social boycotts against them, and define the punishments that suit their deviation. The masses and the strike forces elements can—in the case of self-defense—kill the attackers.

On this occasion, the UNLI passes a death sentence on Martyros Matusyan and others whose names will be announced. The implementation of the death sentence has been deferred until further notice.

—Following Up the UNLI Instructions:

The UNLI announces that the strike forces will follow up on the implementation of its instructions. In this respect, the UNLI reiterates that the landlords, particularly in the central areas, should not raise rent fees or exploit the housing crisis. On the other hand, the UNLI calls on the leaseholders to honor their commitments to the landlords.

The UNLI also warns the opportunists from the merchants and the owners of factories that produce local commodities not to continue to raise the prices of their commodities.

The UNLI also calls on the pharmacies to abide by the strike schedule defined for the commercial sector, except for the pharmacies on duty. The UNLI warns the bakers not to turn their bakeries into small general stores, and

calls on them to sell pastries only. The UNLI warns the merchants, particularly in Jerusalem, against dealing with Israeli commodities that have [non-Israeli] alternatives, particularly at this [word indistinct] time. The strike forces will strike with an iron fist at those who let themselves be seduced into getting around these instructions or being negligent in carrying them out.

—Finally, the Strike Forces:

The strike forces will work [words indistinct] to kindle the confrontation with the occupation authorities, their position, and property, and to provide protection and security for the citizens, particularly on the days of entrenching the phenomenon of liberated villages and independence. In this regard, the UNLI places emphasis on the united slogans and statements, and calls for refraining from writing slogans on the walls of private houses, and to make sure that stones are not thrown at passing or parked vehicles.

Masses of the glorious intifadah who are scoring a triumph as each martyr falls, as the UNLI hails the steadfastness of our valiant masses and their sacrifices, especially in Khan Yunus, Rafah, Gaza, Jerusalem, Kafr Malik, 'Ayn Yabrud, al-Jalazun, Bayt Furik, and Salim, it urges you to program your escalation and launch disobedience campaigns and embody our independent state by enforcing the following program of activities:

Saturday, 21 April—all businesses to open until 1700.

Sunday, 22 April—the day of Jerusalem to be observed as a day of general strike to underline Muslim-Christian solidarity against aggressors in the capital of the Palestinian state.

Monday, 23 April—to be observed as the day of the liberated villages when there will be a general strike. Flags will be hoisted and village entrances and residential districts closed off with stone barricades, and strike forces will brace for defending the freedom of the village and confronting attacking soldiers. Neighborhood committees are to organize popular marches and meetings in village and town squares, as well as in other residential districts when an alternative national authority is to be organized.

Tuesday, 24 April—the day preceding 'Id al-Fitr will be a normal business day.

Wednesday, 25 April—'Id al-Fitr, when businesses will stay open until 1300. UNLI takes the opportunity to congratulate our Islamic masses and urges them to call at martyrs' graves and on their families.

Thursday, 26 April—to be observed as a day of solidarity when businesses are to remain open until 1300 and neighborhood committees will offer assistance and services to needy residents.

Friday, 27 April—a day of solidarity with the intifadah and Jerusalem, when Arab and Palestinian masses inside and outside the state are urged to organize popular activities and protest marches, sit-ins, forums and lectures.

Saturday, 28 April—to be observed as the day of expellees. Businesses are to remain open until 1300, and all pedestrians and private and public transport should come to a standstill. Passengers should disembark for just five minutes, during which horns are to blare and all are to observe silence.

Sunday and Monday, 29-30 April—businesses are to remain open until 1600.

Tuesday, 1 May—to be observed as the International Labor Day, when workplaces and factories and corporations are to give paid leave to their employees. On this occasion, UNLI extends special greetings to our workers, and urges factories and corporations to show solidarity with our worker sectors and offer assistance to those among them who are unemployed, as well as raise their salaries and improve their conditions. UNLI further calls the attention of those concerned to the need for a resolution of the issue of the Awqaf employees as soon as possible. Stores are to remain open until 1300.

Wednesday, 2 May [words indistinct].

Thursday, 3 May [words indistinct] general student union UNLI extends special greetings from participants at the conference. It also takes this opportunity to exhort our student population in our occupied territory to quit the practice of cheating in examinations—a phenomenon that has come to threaten the sound educational process. Stores to stay open until 1400.

Friday, 4 May—to be observed as the anniversary of our heroic martyrs under 10 years of age. Prayers to be said for their souls at mosques, and marches to be organized. Stores to stay open until 1300.

Saturday, 5 May—to be observed as a day of solidarity with closed schools and universities. Businesses to stay open until 1300. Solidarity activities to be organized and the possibility considered of instituting popular education. At 2000, all lights in residences are to be switched on and youths are to go out as an expression of their rejection of the policies of forced illiteracy.

Sunday, 6 May—to be observed as a day of the heroes of detention centers and their sufferings, when there will be a general strike. UNLI salutes our heroes in detention centers and appeals to them to pursue their commendable work by closing ranks and discarding their differences, and using common sense and dialogue.

Monday and Tuesday, 7-8 May—businesses are to open until 1300.

Wednesday, 9 May—to be observed as a day of general strike to mark 30 months since the intifadah began.

Thursday and Friday, 10-11 May—all businesses are to stay open throughout. All days are to be viewed as days of activities and struggle with all available means, especially [word indistinct]. We are bound to attain victory.

[Signed] The UNLI

Algeria

Islamic Front Holds March, Issues Memorandum

LD2004191990 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1730 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tens of thousands of supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front [ISF] who had come from various regions of the country, have been converging all morning on 1 May Square. Mohamed Saoui describes the scene:

[Saoui] The march, in which over 100,000 people participated, began today in 1 May Square following Friday prayers and ended at El Mouradia. The [words indistinct] in charge of the ISF announced a memorandum composed of 13 points would be read. In these points, the ISF is demanding the dissolution of the People's National Assembly, either by a presidential decision or by a referendum to decide what should be done regarding this matter. It also calls for parliamentary elections within a maximum period of three months, with the establishment of [words indistinct] structures to supervise elections.

The document demands the dissolution of the trade union body which was part of the old single party system, a campaign against unemployment and social plagues, and an end to the single party monopoly over the news media.

Regarding reform, the memorandum also demands the drawing up of a schedule to implement them. On justice, the ISF demands the application of Islamic law. The 13-point memorandum, which is to be handed to the Presidency, also demands an efficacious policy toward the USSR, Bulgaria, and Afghanistan in order to put an end to the injustice that Muslims in these countries suffer.

These, then, are a few of the main points of the memorandum. The march itself took place calmly, in silence even, and was very well organized. This evening the ISF is planning a news conference for 2200.

Spokesman Holds News Conference

LD2104101290 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT
21 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 21 Apr (APS)—Abassi Madani, official spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front [ISF], held a news conference at Gala Hall, in Kouba District last night; it was attended by a great number of local and international newsmen. He assessed the march on the Presidency which his party organized yesterday following Friday prayers.

Before starting his appraisal, Abassi Madani regretted the president's absence and non participation in the Algerian people's festival, adding pointedly: "When we marched toward the Presidency, we considered him as a president for the whole Algerian people, not merely the National Liberation Front chairman."

At the beginning of his comments on the march, in which 3 million people took part according to an estimate by the march's organizers—which included 10,000 marshals—Mr. Abassi pointed out that "despite the provocations and harassments in a number of areas before the march, such as banning buses from leaving for the capital, at the local administration's instigation, and prohibiting the use of loud speakers by march organizers, the march went ahead quietly. This allowed the ISF to present its political memorandum to the Presidency."

Abassi Madani then mentioned the efforts of other parties which, he said, had insisted on taking part in the procession unannounced, based on their conviction about the need for integration and cooperation. He called for a roundtable between all political parties to determine the concepts, spheres, and terms of reforms, pointing out that whatever the number of the parties, they all agree on national interests.

In the course of his replies to a number of questions, the ISF official spokesman explained the concept for the "El-Hisbah" system, which was one of the points raised by the memorandum, saying: "It is an independent body which looks into moral issues; it will be completely independent of the government. Such a body could even summon the ruler and try him."

Regarding the possibility of dissolving the National People's Assembly and holding new elections within three months, given the current circumstances, Abassi Madani said a catastrophe will occur unless such a demand is met. He cited a number of problems which led the front to submit such a demand, primarily the embezzlement of the \$26 billion which he described as "more than the value the country's entire debt; the regime is involved in it. And the National People's Assembly is part of the regime," he said.

Egypt

Police Officer Killed in Bomb Attack on Church

NC2004161190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 20 Apr (MENA)—Three unidentified individuals riding on a motorcycle threw an explosive device at the Virgin Mary Church in the town of Sinnuris in the Governorate of al-Fayyum today, killing a police officer and wounding two soldiers who were guarding the church.

Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa traveled to the scene of the incident and supervised the security forces' efforts to apprehend the culprits.

The Public Prosecutor's Office has ordered the immediate arrest of the culprits. It has also ordered that testimony be taken from the soldiers who were guarding the church.

A number of suspects have been arrested. The security authorities are continuing their intensive efforts to arrest the culprits. The traffic department's prosecutor's office

under Attorney General Mahmud al-Sharshabi has also begun its investigation of the incident.

The interior minister had returned to Cairo early today after a two-day visit to Asyut, during which he participated in celebrations marking Asyut national day.

Anti-Muslim Rumor Sparks 'Riot'

NC2004175690 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, April 20 (AFP)—One policeman was killed and two wounded Friday in a bomb attack on a church in an area south of here where Moslems had rioted against Coptic Christians a few days earlier, the official media reported. Three assailants riding a motorbike escaped after throwing explosive devices at the church in Sinnuris, in the al-Fayyum Governorate 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Cairo, the MIDDLE EASTERN NEWS AGENCY (MENA) said.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa went to the town to supervise the search for the three men and police arrested several suspects, MENA said.

On Sunday, Moslem youths had gone on a riot in Sinnuris, attacking and setting fire to a dozen pharmacies and other stores owned by Copts. Police arrested 78 people after the violence, which left 10 people injured according to the opposition newspaper AL-WAFD. Reliable sources said the riot had resulted from a rumour that a five-year old Moslem girl had been raped by a Copt in the town.

Similar anti-Copt attacks occurred last month in the southern governorate of al-Minya. General Musa blamed the violence on Moslem fundamentalists but also on "several fanatic elements among the Copts."

Sidqi Blames 'International' Groups

JN2104193890 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
20 Apr 90 p 1

[By Basyuni al-Halawani and Tayil al-Shabshiri]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stated that the government's subsidy of basic commodities will continue to alleviate the suffering of the lower-income classes; for example, the gas cylinder, which is sold for 65 piasters, is subsidized by four pounds. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. Sidqi spoke about acts of violence in al-Minya, Abu Qurqas, and Sinnuris in al-Fayyum. He said tendentious rumors sparked these acts, provoked overenthusiastic youths, making them behave arbitrarily and violently in a manner rejected by Islam. He said there are international organizations behind these waves of extremism, and that these organizations' objective is to disrupt stability and divert young people's attention from productive work. He said the state will deal strongly with acts of sabotage in order to safeguard the majority of the Egyptian people from extremists. He added

Muslims and Christians are living in peace and security and working as one, a unity that will not be affected by reckless acts. [passage omitted]

End to Syrian, Iraqi 'Media Campaigns' Sought

JN2004181790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
19 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Syria is currently mediating between Egypt and Iran to convince the Iranian authorities to release 44 Egyptian civilian prisoners. Syria is also seeking to obtain complete information on the remaining Egyptian prisoners, who Iran claims had taken up arms against it during the Gulf war.

Egyptian diplomatic circles acknowledge that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad offered his mediation services during his meeting with President Mubarak in Tubruq. The diplomatic sources said Syria seeks to open a direct line of communication between Cairo and Tehran and improve Egyptian-Iranian relations in the next stage. These circles also said President Mubarak told President al-Asad that Egypt is ready to establish diplomatic relations or hold a direct dialogue with Iran before settling the problems still pending between Iraq and Iran.

These circles also say that Egypt yesterday initiated an urgent action to halt the media campaigns between Baghdad and Damascus which resumed the day before yesterday, following a 10-day suspension period. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has asked the Egyptian ambassadors in Iraq and Syria to begin urgent negotiations with the respective countries' officials to convince them to reduce tension, not exacerbate the situation, and demonstrate goodwill in the interest of the Arab causes.

AL-WAFD has learned that Egyptian mediation between Iraq and Syria has recently made some important headway.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls for Release of Hostages

LD2204153990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1459 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution addresses a call to Muslims throughout the world, in his capacity as the leader of the world Islamic people's leadership.

On the occasion of Laylat al-Qadr and the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, we call for the second time on all those who are holding hostages to release them, primarily those who carried out humanitarian acts, such as the members of the Red Cross, out of respect for and in implementation of the generous principles of Islam.

At the same time, I address this call to the states of the world to put pressures on the racism which is governing occupied Palestine in order to release the innocent Palestinians. It is also the world's duty to condemn the savage torture and barbaric treatment inflicted on those

Palestinians in the camps and the duty of the Western states to release the citizens of Middle East countries they are holding for political reasons.

Al-Qadhdhafi Wants Long-Range Arab 'Missile'

*LD2004141990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2106 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting with students of the Higher Institute for Applied Social Studies at the Great al-Fatih University in Tripoli on 18 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] This institute is regarded as an important social institution. It was established to accomplish a mission which was lacking before the establishment of this institute. [passage omitted]

In general, the problems cannot be narrowed down in reality. I do not know how studies are progressing in this institute. The institute is very important and is considered as one that graduates leaders in social sciences for leading the masses to solve their problems. Consequently, the one who is not qualified and who has no disposition from the start to lead, help, and serve the masses, must not occupy a seat in this institute. [passage omitted]

The past 20 years were a preamble to the revolution, during which we trained, learned, fought, and confronted. We tried all methods. We got to know the world; we interacted, fell out, and made up with them. This was an inevitable preamble, an experience. We are now entering another 20 years of revolution. Death and other events are known to God; we have nothing to do with them. We are talking about a revolutionary plan, and it should be declared as such with or without those present [as heard]. We are starting another 20 years of revolution. Those who are capable of marching along with us in this revolution may get ready; for those who cannot, God does not burden anyone with more than they are capable of doing.

The revolution which took place in the past 20 years started with covert action; people could not speak to each other. The nature of the action and the phase dictated such a situation. However, the revolution which is starting now for another 20 years—if nothing unforeseen takes place such as a relapse caused by internal or external factors—these new 20 years. [sentence as heard] Since last September we said let us start a new phase. This year, the 21st year, is a year for making plans and preparations [words indistinct] say another 4 months, another 4 months before September. Only preparatory studies and final touches are needed, and the implementation will begin after that. The new revolutionary phase is different in that it is not covert; it is overt, jamahiri, and divided into spheres in which revolution exists.

One of the starting points of the new revolution is this institute. You are expected to become leaders of the social revolution, which is due to start in four months. However, I am afraid you may not be ready for the revolution and have

come to the institute with the idea it is simply an institute of higher education. You are finding yourselves faced with a serious mission which you might fail to fulfill. What would happen then? We disband the institute and select new students. Generally speaking, you must get ready. [passage omitted] You will be the leaders of the masses in the new revolution. Each one of you must be prepared. You have seen that the whole world is moving toward the Jamahir-iyah; consequently, it has become necessary to establish the perfect model on Libyan territory. [passage omitted] It is not possible for any country to be ruled by many parties. That country would become like Lebanon, in perpetual conflict.

This is impossible; this is what is taking place in Algeria now: If you want to bring forth a political association or a charity association, just register it. It has come apart, one fears that Algeria will break apart [words indistinct] each party rejoicing in that which is with itself. One fears these groups will arm themselves one day and Algeria will become like Lebanon or Chad, and civil war will begin. Chad has been in a civil war for almost 30 years and Lebanon has lived with decades of civil war; that is, since the 18th century [as heard]. I fear Algeria will also fall into a dangerous whirlpool if things do not change or improve somehow. Elections do not solve the problem in a multiparty system because voters distribute their votes among these parties and each party will get a small number of votes. If things end up with one party ruling, the one which does not rule will lie in wait, not to guide it but to destroy it. It is not in the interest of society; it is in the interest of this party so that it occupies the position of power.

This whirlpool of a multiparty system is known and does not lead to a satisfactory result. The first structure, whatever its form or nature, has collapsed and now a mix-up which has no beginning and no end has started. East [as heard] Europe and America, which is used to the two-party system—the Republican-Democratic or the Socialist-Social Christian or the Labor and Conservative—are feeling the brunt of the current storm and will not remain steadfast. Other parties will appear in the arena around these two parties, and we will see new parties in Britain, the United States, and Germany and the small parties, because of the farce of false democracy, now have a decisive importance. The large party is not important anymore; the important one is the small party. One whose party is in the lead because it is a large one, 49 percent of votes, needs two votes so that it will have 51 percent to form a government, for example.

The one who received 40 percent of the votes needs the one who received two percent and starts to beg him: You who have only two percent join me. If the one who has two percent joins him, together they will have 51 percent and the one with 49 percent of the votes will be at the mercy of the one with two more percent because he can threaten him at anytime and tell him: I will withdraw my two votes and you will only have 49, whereas your rival will have 51. The party with the microscopic minority will become the one ruling the country and start dictating

to the one with 49 percent of the votes and tell it to issue certain decisions, even if the latter are in the interest of a very marginal minority or an individual. The majority will not be the one deciding its destiny. This is a farce. Votes are distributed among 20 parties and each party will receive 20 percent [as heard]. All these parties will become equal, but which one will have the majority?

The world really confirms everyday the soundness of the Third Universal Theory and the thesis of "The Green Book" which lies in its importance, success and credibility because they are the lessons learned from history. [passage omitted]

The first jamahiri society and revolution must be given attention. Among the objectives of the jamahiri revolution is that in the next 20 years Arab unity must be achieved, a serious strategic defense force must be built, one that will destroy colonialist, Zionist, or imperialist ambitions in the Arab homeland, and the world must change over to the jamahiri system through a jamahiri revolution which will begin in Libya. [slogans shouted]

Those who march with us in this revolution must get ready and know why they are in this institute. The social revolution in these spheres will start from this institute, and you will be the leaders of the social revolution. [passage omitted]

Now if you look for steelworkers in Europe you will not find any. [inaudible question in background] Yes, if you consider the robot as a step forward. Nowadays a man wants to give up many things in this era. [sentence as heard] In Europe, when the workers are told they are needed for the steel and iron industry, they say: no thanks; furnaces, fire and so on: no. Do you have any gardening jobs or in the plastic industries? This is why they have turned from steel and iron to aluminium, and later they will change to plastic. When they are sent to a factory that builds planes and trains, they say: No, we thought it was a watch factory. At this rate, they may not find anyone to work in the future unless they use robots. This is one of the goals of progress, to replace man. Let us not talk about this now, it is all in the future. Now it is difficult to say we will give up material gains, regardless of the moral problems which have resulted from these gains. It is wrong and dangerous to ignore moral problems; that is, the social problems which have resulted from material progress or the nature of this era. It is like someone who has a disease and refuses to have it diagnosed and treated. [passage omitted]

So there are social problems which we are indeed faced with. Those parts of the world, which have reached the present stage and were faced with these problems before us, set up those institutions which you hear about, such as the International Family Federation which convened in Banghazi. This institution was formed by 70 states because the latter became aware before us of the seriousness of the social problems faced by the family. The family is today in danger. The institution of marriage is also threatened and may even disappear. How would

people's lives be without a family? All the constitutions of the world stress the importance of the family and now this first cell of society is threatened with extinction. The marriage contract has also become, in a number of countries, a farce and is not respected. Even here in Libya when a man marries a second wife without his first wife's consent—thus contravening the resolution issued after the revolution—it is tantamount to disdain for and destruction of the first cell of society and the destruction of the family. [passage omitted] What threatens the world now are all the workers' strikes in all states. East Europe did not know them but will know them now because millions of workers in East Europe will become unemployed because they left socialism. Those present now in East Europe will now have stability, a thousand governments will fail, conflicts will continue and they will be more backward. The consequences of unemployment, inflation, and high costs of living will come to them. [passage omitted] This is empty talk. What is this? One cannot move anymore; there are beatings in the streets, and when the call for prayer is made, one gets a stick and will break your car window; did you not hear the call for prayer? How can I be a Muslim in this way, brother? How can you judge me whether I pray or not, whether I have done my ablutions or not? What is this empty talk? Their time has gone. The groups of repudiation [reference to Takfir wa'l-Hijrah] and others are hashish-smokers—you know (the fortress of the dead?) the hashish-smokers of the past in Iran. These are from the same group. Their time passed a long time ago when an army used to take over a mountain, close an area between two mountains, impose an iron grip on it, making fun of the youth, trains them and tells them: Jump from the mountain—and they do it and die. It also tells them to be bandits and [words indistinct] the thing which is now called jihad, call [al-Da'wah], repudiation and renunciation, has come from Iran. Who are they? They are hashish-smokers and have nothing to do with religion. These were in fact religious groups but bandits like our highwaymen [as heard] [sounds of laughter], precisely, the highwayman, he gets a little bit of barley from every carriage which passes by; otherwise, he turns it upside down. Their time has gone. Now in society, the world is moving toward the jamahiri system; consequently, we will concern ourselves with the jamahiri revolution in Libya and export it and explain it to the world. It will be a historic revolution. All the ailments in this society must be eradicated in leading the masses along the path. Speaking specifically about the Higher Institute of Applied Social Sciences, you must be prepared for another 20 years of revolution. You will have to go out on the street. It will not be traditional work or employment. We do not want to see any of you after graduation, going somewhere other than the field of leading the masses socially. Those who do may be tried. [passage omitted]

Think of a method of deterrence for the whole Arab world; it should deter imperialism, Zionism, in Europe or anywhere. This homeland aspires in the coming twenty years to be feared; not like before: France, taking

Tunisia and Algeria; England, taking Egypt and the Sudan. Between you there is a piece of land they called Libya and you gave it to the Italians [as heard]. This they gave to the French. This should not be repeated.

When we have a deterrent force, they will no longer think about dividing us. This is not a myth or a fable; this is the truth. Did not the Americans almost hit you yesterday when you were asleep in your homes? If they know that you have a deterrent force capable of hitting the United States, they wouldn't be able to hit you. If we had possessed a deterrent—missiles that could reach New York—we would have hit it at the same moment. Consequently, we should build this force so that they and others will no longer think about an attack. Whether regarding Libya or the Arab homeland, in the coming twenty years this revolution should achieve a unified Arab nation. This revolution should achieve the unity of the Arab nation. This should become one homeland, the whole of it, possessing missiles and even nuclear bombs. Regarding reciprocal treatment, the world has a nuclear bomb, we should have a nuclear bomb.

When I asked the leader of China how did China manufacture the hydrogen bomb, he told me: Listen, we are a poor part of the Third World. I told him I visited the Great Wall of China, but on the way I saw the Chinese carrying big stones on donkeys. What is this? They said there is a river and when its flood time comes, it is blocked from this side by stones and mud and then we remove the stones so that the river can flow. They carry the stones on donkeys. When I returned I told Li Peng: China has a hydrogen bomb and I saw you carrying stones on donkeys. He said: China is a poor country and still employs donkeys, horses, and mules, and hands. But I collected a pound from every Chinese until I had a billion with which I manufactured the hydrogen bomb. I said every Chinese pays a pound. I said why? He told me I show the other big powers which have nuclear bombs that if they play with the nuclear bomb, they will not be able to play with China. For this purpose, to deter, to stop them from saying they will not say the size of the population of China is big and its territory is big, and we shall occupy it one day, use nuclear bombs against it and take it. We tell them even China has a bomb. If bombs are used, even China can use them. If nuclear bombs are not used, well, this is what we want.

This is our logic, also. When the world is playing around with rockets and bombs, we must be capable of playing the game. These are our objectives. [passage omitted] We want to create a deterrent force such as has been created by the world's tyrants. They must realize the people of this homeland must be able to live in security; that is all, to be able to live in security, to plough, plant, dance, and sing in our homeland in security as a result of having a deterrent. This is what we must achieve in the next 20 years—by achieving the unity of the Arab nation and creating a strategic force.

We would like to change the whole world into jamahiriya's. If jamahiriya's are established everywhere they

will our friends, and those who are evil will disappear. Those leaders, governments, and armies are destroying the world which we are a part of, and consequently, we may be destroyed. Zionism will disappear in the next 20 years. We will solve all the problems and concentrate on this great work. You will lead the masses forward in this way, starting from this institute which will produce the jamahiri leaders of the social revolution.

Society will reach a level where its sedentary members, those who cannot stand up, will be trained to carry out management and sedentary work that does not involve the use of legs—instead of paying them a basic wage or social security and leaving them in a corner. [passage omitted] This is one of the objectives for which we established this institute; you may not know that. Perhaps you did not know that and just entered the institute for no particular reason. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Departs for Lusaka on 'Official' Visit

EA2204210390 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT
21 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 21 April (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, left Khartoum this morning for Lusaka, Zambia, on an official two-day visit in response to an invitation from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. During the visit, Lt. Gen. 'Umar will hold talks with President Kaunda on strengthening and promoting relations between the two countries, in addition to African and regional issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, RCC member Colonel Dominic Kassiano told SUNA that Lt. Gen. 'Umar's visit comes within the framework of the revolution's policy of opening up toward southern Africa, which aims at promoting Sudan's relations [words indistinct] and opening up new fields of cooperation, particularly in trade and commerce. He further stated the visit is aimed also at briefing Zambian officials on the revolutionary government's efforts concerning the peace issue in the south as well as rectifying incorrect information concerning the revolution.

Returns From Zambia

EA2304101290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir returned here today after an official one-day visit to Zambia. In a press statement, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that his visit was in line with the revolution's efforts to build strong relations with African countries. He pointed out that he exchanged views with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on many areas of interest to the African Continent and the development of relations between Sudan and Zambia, as well as on the possibility of Zambia playing a role in (?solving) the

problem of southern Sudan, on the basis of President Kaunda's interests as an African leader who pays special attention to the problems of the continent. Al-Bashir extended an invitation to President Kaunda to visit Sudan. He accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Junior, Retired Officers' Coup Attempt 'Foiled'

NC2304074490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT
23 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Apr (MENA)—A failed coup attempt was foiled this morning in Khartoum. The coup attempt was made by a number of junior officers led by a group of retired officers. The Sudanese Armed Forces of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation managed to thwart the attempt and to completely control the situation. A number of officers who carried out the attempt have been arrested.

The situation in Sudan has returned to normal. The three overpasses in the triangular-shaped capital were reopened at 0700 today, and traffic was resumed on these overpasses. Khartoum airport has been reopened, and telephone services have been restored in the national

capital. Telephone communications were cut off as part of the Sudanese Armed Forces' security operations.

The armed forces command palace has also been reinforced. Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, commander of the Salvation Revolution, and members of the Revolution Command Council are currently there to resume control of the situation.

A source in the Sudanese Armed Forces General Command has told the MENA correspondent in Khartoum that the coup attempt was brought under control in its early hours at precisely 0430 after the curfew hours. He said the Armed Forces General Command will publish a detailed statement about what happened.

The correspondent says that since dawn, various units of the Sudanese Armed Forces took control of the entry points to the overpasses, which link Khartoum to Umm Durman and Khartoum Bahri, and that traffic was banned on these overpasses from 0430 to 0700.

Strict security measures were observed at the Armed Forces General Command, radio and television headquarters, and at some important strategic sites. It is noteworthy that a curfew was in force between 0100 and 0400 today.

Kuwait**Amir Announces Formation of National Council***LD2204203990 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah address marking the last 10 days of Ramadan; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Brothers: At the beginning of the nineties, I spoke to you about a qualitative transformation in our life, stressing the principle of consultation, the expansion of the parliamentary life, and the participation in responsibility, all of which are the bases of Kuwaiti life, which we have agreed upon and built together. The past three months have been ones of dialogue, at the end of which my brother, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, submitted to me a detailed review of the views expressed by wide sectors and segments of Kuwaiti society, sectors and segments having various specializations and experience. The number of those who participated in the dialogue proved the serious participation in the shouldering of responsibility. The proposals submitted were fertile and not a reaction on the spur of the moment. [passage omitted]

Brothers: The planning we have arrived at regarding the future of parliamentary life was the fruit of interaction among the following factors: The wide nature of the submitted proposals, a matter that necessitates their being given the study and comparison they deserve; the selection of the most appropriate for our society and deriving benefits from our past experience, as we are fully aware experience is the path toward progress; the preservation of national unity and barring the way to any sign of breaking ranks, which requires public interest be given priority over [words indistinct] to voice his opinion. [passage omitted]

The circumstances through which the region is passing now and the waves of change arising in the Middle East call on us for greater solidarity so we can avoid any sedition, as the evils of sedition are many. We still can see these evils. We pray to God Almighty to enable us to avoid these evils of sedition.

Brothers: The decision we have reached has considered all these factors. The decision was not made to surmount an obstacle or to temporarily confront a situation, it was made to forge a way along which all efforts should be channeled to build for the future without being squandered by partial or side differences. It is a decision we have made in these blessed days—the last 10 days of the month of Ramadan—by which we seek the good of our nation and follow the march of prosperity and progress. [passage omitted]

Out of our belief in these national foundations, out of our position of historic responsibility, and out of our concern for the security and stability of our people, I have issued an amiri decree for setting up a National

Council [majlis watani], which will serve as a transitional period and will assume the responsibility for appraising our parliamentary experiment and proposing future steps in this connection, and for studying the paths of our qualitative transformation, safeguarding our democratic march, and affirming our national unity. I pray to God Almighty to make this council successful in shouldering its responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Amir's Decree Detailed*LD2204223690 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1906 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[Amiri Decree on establishing the National Council; read by announcer]

[Text] In following what God Almighty has said in His holy book—consult them on the matter; and deriving honor from the position of those who have been honored by God in His holy book when He said—their affair should be solved through consultation; and from the belief that consultation and popular participation are original values within the conscience of our people; and to avoid a negative attitude which had obstructed continuation of our parliamentary experiment and threatened the homeland's higher interest and the cohesion of our society; and to affirm the results reached by the free dialogue in which the homeland's sons of various factions participated and which revealed the necessity to work to establish bases and regulations guaranteeing the incorruptibility of parliamentary life and bolstering our national unity; and from our belief in the necessity of sincere and serious action to continue our good march toward a better future in which the homeland shall enjoy more prosperity, security and stability, and in which the citizens shall enjoy more political freedom, equality and social justice; and in ensuring stronger cooperation among the constitutional authorities which will anchor our lives to the principles of sacrifice, self-denial, and sincere action for the sake of the homeland, and proceeding from our responsibilities vis-a-vis this safe homeland and in affirmation of the role of popular participation in shouldering its responsibility in a manner that safeguards the homeland against everything that threatens its life and subjects its safety and stability to danger; and from a position of historic responsibility and in the name of the homeland's higher interest, and after taking cognizance of the amiri order to dissolve the National Assembly [majlis al-ummah] issued 3 July 1986, we have decreed the following:

Article 1: A council to be called the National Council [al-majlis al-watani] shall be set up. It shall assume the following tasks:

First: To study the negative attitude which prevented the continuation of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities, and to propose the rules and principles which guarantee the preservation of the unity and stability of the homeland in agreement with the spirit of Islamic law and in affirmation of the principle of

the one family in Kuwait. This study shall be made in secret sessions. The council shall submit reports in this connection to the amir in preparation for referring these reports to the National Assembly.

Second: To discuss the bills which shall be referred to it by the Council of Ministers. The council shall express its views on these bills within a period of two months as from the date when these bills are referred to it. The council shall have the right to propose and discuss the bills it deems necessary and refer them to the Council of Ministers. In all events, laws shall not become effective until they are ratified and issued by the amir.

Third: To monitor the government departments by carrying out a discussion with the ministers to seek clarification for matters under their jurisdiction.

Fourth: To express wishes to the Council of Ministers with regard to public issues. If taking such wishes into account proves difficult the Council of Ministers shall explain the reasons.

Fifth: To peruse the final account of the financial administration of the State regarding the outgoing year, discuss the account and express views therein.

Sixth: To peruse the reports of the Audit Department for the purpose of discussing them and expressing views on them.

Article 2: The council, in accordance with the request of 10 of its members, can request the prime minister to clarify the government policy on any general issue and to exchange views on such a policy. The council can make suggestions and propose solutions which ensure the public interest and bolster the paths of the qualitative transformation of Kuwaiti society, and refer them to the Council of Ministers.

Article 3: The Council of Ministers shall refer the draft comprehensive annual budget containing the revenues and expenditures of the State to the council two months before the end of the fiscal year. The council shall debate the budget and make the appropriate proposals, and return to the Council of Ministers two weeks before the end of the fiscal year.

Article 4: The council shall be set up of 75 members as follows:

First: 50 members to be selected by secret public ballot according to a law to be enacted in this connection. They shall be distributed among constituencies which will be defined by law.

Second: The amir shall select 25 members from experienced and proficient people, and who shall include a number of ministers.

A member of the National Council shall satisfy the following conditions:

A: He should be Kuwaiti by nationality and not through naturalization according to the law.

B: He should satisfy the conditions of elector according to the electoral law.

C: He should not be less than 30 years of age on the day of election.

D: He should be able to read and write Arabic.

Article 5: The council shall decide on the correctness of the election of its members. It alone shall have the power to accept the resignation of any of its members.

Article 6: If the position of any member of the council becomes vacant before the end of its term of office for any reason at all, another person shall be elected to fill this vacancy within two months of the date of proclaiming this vacancy by the council if the member whose position becomes vacant was an elected member. Another member shall be appointed to fill in the vacancy if the member whose position has become vacant was an appointed member. In all events, the duration of the new member shall be until the end of the term of his predecessor.

Article 7: A member of the council is free to express his views and ideas inside the council and in its committees. He should not be blamed for this at all.

Article 8: The duration of the council is four calendar years, which begin from the date of its first meeting. The duration shall be divided into four yearly sessions, the duration of each shall not be less than eight months.

Article 9: The council shall hold its ordinary session at the amir's invitation during October each year. The amir can invite the council to hold an extraordinary meeting if he deems it necessary.

Article 10: In exception to the provisions of Articles 8 and 9, the council shall be invited to hold its first session within one month of the date of announcing the results of the general election of its members. The session shall continue until the council concludes the debate of the State's general budget.

Article 11: The venue where the session of the council shall be held shall be defined by a decree.

Article 12: The ending of the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the council shall be announced in a decree.

Article 13: Prior to assuming his duties on the council, a member shall be sworn in before the council in an open session. He shall take the following oath:

I swear by Almighty God to be sincere to the homeland, the amir, and to honor the Constitution and State laws and defend the people's freedoms, interests and assets, and perform my duties truthfully and sincerely.

Article 14: At its first meeting and for its duration, the council shall elect a chairman and deputy chairman from its members. If the position of either becomes vacant, the council shall select a replacement until the end of the council's duration. Election in all events shall be by absolute majority of the members present. The first

session shall be presided over, and until a chairman is elected, by the oldest member.

Article 15: The council shall lay down its own statutes. Within two weeks of the date of its first meeting, the council shall set up the committees necessary for its work. In carrying out its work, the council can seek the assistance of specialized and experienced people it chooses.

Article 16: The chairman of the Council of Ministers and ministers who are not members of the council have the right to attend the meetings of the council and its committees without having the right to vote.

Article 17: Considering the contents of the first subarticle of Article 1, the meetings of the council shall be public. They can be held in camera at the request of the chairman or at least 15 of its members and with the approval of the council. The meetings of the council shall be deemed correct when more than one half of its members are present. Decisions shall be issued by absolute majority of the members present. If there is an equal number of votes cast for and against, the matter which has been discussed shall be deemed as having been rejected.

Article 18: A law shall define the remunerations of the chairman and deputy chairman, as well as members of the council.

Article 19: The council chairman shall represent the council in its contacts with other bodies and shall speak in its name. He shall supervise all the council's work. He also shall supervise the council's secretariat general. He shall have the authorities stipulated for a minister.

Article 20: The council shall have a secretariat general. The council chairman shall decide organization of this secretariat general. The officials working in this secretariat general shall be subject to the provisions of a law and the Civil Service Code.

Article 21: The council's secretariat general shall be chaired by a secretary general, who is appointed through the council chairman. The secretary general shall be accountable regarding the affairs of the secretariat general and its officials to the chairman. The secretary general attends the meetings of the council. He can attend the meetings of the committees at the latter's

request. The secretary general shall supervise the affairs of the secretariat general and its officials. In this he shall assume the jurisdictions stipulated by the laws for the benefit of an under secretary of a ministry regarding his ministry's affairs and officials.

Article 22: The council shall have a budget whose revenues shall be made up of the monies earmarked by the state in the general budget. Regarding the council's budget, the provisions relating to the State's budget shall be applied. The fiscal year of the council begins with the fiscal year of the State and ends when the State's fiscal year ends, on condition the first fiscal year shall begin from the date of implementing this amiri decree and until the end of the fiscal year.

Article 23: This decree shall be implemented from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Signed: The Amir of Kuwait

Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah at the Palace of Bayan on 22 April 1990.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Palestinian Leader 'Arafat

LD2204231190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Holy Mecca 22 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received at his office at the Royal Court in al-Safa Palace this evening Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. The following attended the meeting: His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Excellency Ali al-Sha'ir, the minister of information; Mr. Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee and president 'Arafat's political advisor; and Mr. Subhi al-Karsh (Abu al-Munah), member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee.

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom to perform the minor pilgrimage rites. [passage omitted]

U.S. Questioned Over Alleged AWACS Presence

JN2104170090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1643 GMT
21 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi Government has asked the U.S. Government to explain why one of the latter's airborne, warning, and control systems [AWACS] planes was flying near the Iraqi border from the Turkish side on 5 April 1990.

The request was made to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad when he was summoned to the Foreign Ministry by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun.

An AWACS plane flew on that day for the first time for seven hours in Turkish airspace in an area adjacent to Iraqi borders.

Air Force Vows To Retaliate if Israel Strikes

JN2204175690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, declared on this corp's anniversary that the Air Force will not hesitate to destroy any target in Israel if the latter attacks Iraq or any other Arab country. He stressed Iraq has drawn up military plans to foil any Israeli attempt to commit aggression.

Saddam Receives Phone Message From Al-Bid

JN2304101890 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT
23 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 23 INA—President Saddam Husayn has received a telephone call from Mr 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of Democratic Yemen Socialist Party.

During his call, Mr al-Bid congratulated President Husayn on the advent of 'Id al-Fitr and briefed his excellency on the latest developments of materializing the soon announcement of unity between the two Yemens. Mr al-Bid also stressed determination of the two countries political leaderships to proceed forward in achieving unity in the soonest time for embodying will of the Yemeni people.

President Husayn thanked Mr al-Bid for his congratulations and wished him good health and happiness and the Yemeni people continued prosperity.

President Husayn also wished success for the unitary steps between the two Yemens in realising this great objective for the brotherly Yemeni people.

President Husayn said the Yemeni unity constitutes a positive state that boosts unity and cohesion of the Arab nation against challenges facing it.

Railway Department on New Station, Rail Linkage

JN2204122890 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT
28 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 22, INA—Iraqi Railways Department recently opened the newly-constructed central railways station building in the northern city of Mosul, the BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper said here today.

The opening of the station, built at a cost of some 3,470,000 Iraqi dinars, coincided with the Iraqi Railways celebration of its 54th anniversary.

A source at the Railways Department said his department's main priority is the linking of Iraq by railway lines with neighbouring countries Kuwait to the south, Jordan to the west and Turkey to the north.

Iraq and Kuwait are to be linked via the Baghdad-al-Basrah-Umm Qasr line which offers services to both passengers and cargo. It is expected that trains on the Iraq-Kuwait line will be moving at a speed of 140 kilometres per hour for passengers while the cargo trains will operate at an average speed of 100 kilometres per hour. Work on the linking project is expected to begin in the near future, the source added.

On the other hand, Iraq has taken the appropriate measures and completed the feasibility study and other technical requirements for linking the Iraqi railways network with that of Jordan.

The best way to link the two neighbouring countries' lines is to establish a railway extension from the al-Hadithah-Haqalaniyah station via al-Rutbah intersection towards the borders and across Jordan to the al-'Aqabah sea-port, the source at the Iraqi Railways Department said.

Meanwhile, the project to link the Baghdad-Mosul railway line with Turkey across Iraq's border city of Zakhu is receiving greater attention due to its importance in promoting passenger and cargo transport services between the two countries.

To achieve this goal, the Railways Department would have to build a dual railway extension of 132 kilometres to reach borders as well as a secondary line of 18 kilometres.

Meanwhile, measures are being taken to implement some railway projects, one to link Mosul with the northern city of Irbil. It will be a dual line with connections to other towns in the eastern part of the region.

Other projects include linking the central Iraqi cities of al-Kufah, Karbala', al-Najaf, the northern cities of Kirkuk and al-Sulaymaniyah and the southern city of al-Basrah with al-Faw.

Shamir Pledges 'New Ideas' To Promote Peace*TA2304085090 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
23 Apr 90 pp 1, 2*

[By Ilan Kfir and Ronit Antler]

[Excerpts] Tension has been mounting in the Likud and the right-wing parties as some members seek to disclose details of the plan Prime Minister Shamir submitted to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Shamir will confer with the Likud ministers and the right-wing factions today and will brief them on the agreement. Sources in SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] said the agreement includes some secret appendices which might infuriate the right wing.

Shamir was not queried about the Baker initiative, and he did not promise to give a positive response to the U.S. secretary of state. He promised Rabbi Yosef to formulate new ideas to promote the Israeli Government's peace plan of last May and to concentrate his efforts on trying to launch a dialogue with all the neighboring Arab countries. The joint document of understanding stresses the prime minister's opposition to any negotiations with the PLO and contains a call to the inhabitants of the territories to come to negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

[Writing on pages 1 and 10 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 April, Sara Honig and Mikhal Yudelman add: "At the meeting it was reportedly said that 'another option for furthering the peace initiative exists, so that it is not necessary to go ahead with the Baker proposal.' The nature of this alternative was not made public, but is reported to have satisfied SHAS doves."]

It has been learned that in addition to Shamir's promise concerning the peace process, the Likud promised SHAS that Arye Der'i would continue to be the interior minister, while Yitzhaq Peretz would go on being a minister. The document drafted by Shamir and Rabbi Yosef includes a pledge to find a solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees and a call to the inhabitants of the territories to enter negotiations without the participation of deportees or PLO representatives in Tunis. [passage omitted]

SHAS Decides To Support Likud-Led Government*TA2304045390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] The Council of Torah Scholars of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has empowered its ministers to support a Likud-led government. A representative of SHAS will notify the prime minister and the Likud ministers about the decision.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that at the end of last night's session of the Council of Torah Scholars, Minister Arye Der'i explained the rabbis were persuaded by Mr. Shamir that he is determined not to back down on the political initiative and on his efforts toward peace.

According to Der'i, mention was also made of a meeting between Israeli delegates and a delegation of residents of Judea and Samaria.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 23 April adds: "The prime minister's bureau head, Yosi Ahime'ir, has denied that the premier submitted to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef something new on the approach to the peace process, saying that what Shamir did was to set out the government's initiative of last year. The question of a reply to Secretary of State Baker remains unclear."]

Minister Der'i reiterated SHAS will not press for establishment of a unity government, but rather will allow Mr. Shamir to form the government he sees fit.

The Likud has formulated an agreement with Knesset Member [MK] Eli'ezer Mizrahi of Agudat Yisra'el. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a joint communique drafted by MK Mizrahi and the Likud's negotiating team states that the two sides are ideologically of one mind regarding the indivisibility of the people and the land. The Likud's position is closer to that of MK Mizrahi when it comes to preserving the integrity of religious values; therefore, the communique continues, the Likud and MK Mizrahi agree to coordinate their moves concerning the contacts toward the establishment of a government.

Our party affairs correspondent reports some circles in the Alignment last night voiced their willingness to return to a unity government to prevent establishment of a narrow-based government of the right-wing parties. In contrast, other party circles say Shim'on Peres will not give the president back the mandate given him to form a government before his time is up.

Likud Ministers Delay Signing SHAS Document*TA2304135990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] Likud ministers decided to put off to another date signing the document of political commitments to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] in return for its agreement to support a government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the decision took SHAS by surprise because Prime Minister Shamir signed the agreement last night with Minister Arye Der'i. Senior SHAS officials told our correspondent they now will request a reconvening of the Council of Torah Scholars to receive their instructions because the instructions from last night to sign the document today were not implemented. Two SHAS Knesset members [MK's] are demanding Interior Minister Arye Der'i immediately convene the Knesset faction to discuss the failure to implement the Council of Torah Scholars' instructions.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported to the Likud ministers on the document at noon. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told it is a very general document based on the principle of the prime minister's commitment to promote the peace process and the

government's political initiative of 4 May, 1989. Mr. Shamir pointed out at the meeting the Likud did not say it was interested in setting up a unity government, and all reports on that issue are unfounded rumors. He also denied he changed his stand on Secretary of State Baker's questions. Mr. Shamir said: It is a storm in a teacup. These are rumors based on disinformation.

In two hours the prime minister is to meet with representatives of Tehiya, and tomorrow he will meet with Tzomet and Moledet.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 23 April adds "MK Ari'el Sharon attacked Prime Minister Shamir at the Likud meeting over his accord with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Sharon asked the prime minister: Who authorized you to agree in the name of the Likud to continue the political initiative? Our correspondent Yaron Kulas reports Likud leaders told the SHAS faction this afternoon they had decided to postpone the signing of the agreement to tomorrow and said they would not manage to complete their consultations with all the factions interested in joining the planned coalition before then. Our correspondent has learned the Likud-SHAS accord guarantees SHAS two ministerial portfolios—including the interior ministry—as well as the post of a deputy minister, even if the faction only has five MK's."]

Peres: No Unity Government Without Yes to Baker

TA2304104290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres said he was very disappointed by SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] decision to support Likud. He told our reporter Le'a Zinder that Labor would not enter a national unity government unless it gave a positive response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker. Peres refused to say when he would return his mandate to the President.

Also attending today's meeting of the Labor Party's negotiating team was Knesset Member Moshe Shahal. Shahal said he does not believe Labor can form a government.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] I think that the deadlock continues. I do not know if the situation will be the same, but probably we would not have the ability to form a coalition. What is going to happen in the political arena, nobody can tell; catch as you can. Maybe Mr. Shamir will try to form a small coalition.

[Zinder] Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef is said to favor a unity government under the conditions that Mr. Shamir is said to have outlined—that is, talks with Palestinians, but not in Cairo, and without saying yes to Secretary Baker. Would Labor enter such a national unity government?

[Shahal] I do not think that there is such a thing as to try and to have a dialogue without the other party. We can draw an optimum design, but if there is no party to such a dialogue, it can be very nice and very good before the

media, but I think it is not realistic. So, there is no peace process, with all respect. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. 'Elements' Interfering in Internal Affairs

TA2204190890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told a White House meeting that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was unable to withstand pressure from the constraints ministers, even though Baker had come to an agreement on a formula for the composition of a Palestinian delegation with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren says that according to a report on the meeting—attended by a senatorial delegation headed by Senator Dole—which has reached Israel, Secretary Baker sharply criticized remarks made by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his Washington visit, and described them as distorted. Senator Metzenbaum, a member of the delegation, said Israel would lose the campaign for public opinion and congressional support if it does not renew the peace process as quickly as possible.

In response, Jerusalem said there are apparently elements in the United States interested in mixing in Israel's internal affairs, and in defaming its leaders.

Ministry Denies Arms Deal With Drug Trafficker

TA2204083890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 22 Apr 90 p 2

[By Joshua Brilliant and Yoram Bar]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The Israeli weapons found on the estate of a noted Colombian drug trafficker were sent to a sovereign government which promised not to pass them on without Israeli approval, according to the Defence Ministry.

Ministry spokesmen did not identify the government which supposedly ordered the arms, but it seemed to be Antigua.

According to defence officials, weapons are sold "only to sovereign governments, after verification and undertakings (that they will be the) end users."

The government which had ordered the arms was not Colombia. The Colombian authorities raised the matter with Israel, but details of Jerusalem's reply were not revealed and officials here stated that they do not "detail" defence ties. They would not say what was sent, but one source told THE JERUSALEM POST it was "light weapons."

Antigua's Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird said on Monday that the weapons were shipped from Haifa to an Antiguan port last April and then on to Santa Marta, Colombia.

The Israel officials said they had no information "how these weapons were transferred to private hands in Colombia."

Yoram Bar adds:

A Foreign Ministry official also denied any Israeli involvement in arms deals with Colombian drug barons.

The officials told THE JERUSALEM POST that while Israel would have never allowed such deals, "no country can possibly guarantee that shipments of weapons it makes to legitimate sources will later stay in the possession of that source."

IDF Kills 6 'Terrorists' in Lebanon Operation

TA2104092090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit killed six terrorists in an initiated operation north of the security strip in southern Lebanon last night, in the heart of an area controlled by Hizballah. Our forces sustained no casualties. The unit concluded the operation and returned to Israeli territory this morning.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports the troops, who belong to the Giv'ati Brigade, operated against terrorists in the 'Ayn al-Tinah area, which is hilly and difficult to traverse. Kalashnikovs, flak jackets, grenades, ammunition, and additional equipment were found near the terrorists' bodies.

Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, conferred with the commanders and soldiers of the unit at the end of the operation and expressed satisfaction with their performance.

Shots Fired at Bus Near Jerusalem; 1 Wounded

TA2304050290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] An Israeli bus passenger was lightly wounded in the leg last night by shots fired as a bus traveled from Qiryat 'Arba to Jerusalem. The shooting occurred near the village of Bayt Immar. Security forces closed off the area. Earlier, two soldiers were injured by rocks thrown at a bus near Bayt Jala.

A molotov cocktail was thrown at a Jewish-owned home in the Old City of Jerusalem. The bottle ignited, but no one was injured and no damage was caused.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 23 April reports "the general strike called by the Unified National Command of the Uprising continues today. Uprising leaders in Jerusalem have declared they are joining Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin in calling off the strike. Residents in the territories are angry about the frequent strikes. A 13-year-old boy from the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died last night in Tel

Hashomer Hospital. He was wounded in disturbances yesterday. A curfew was imposed on the camp."]

Ministry on Role in Old City Building Purchase

TA2204143790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry confirms its participation in purchasing the building in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. An official ministry communique states the ministry transferred to the Himanuta company [subsidiary of the Jewish National Fund] 3.6 million shekels, or 40 percent of the value of the deal. Our correspondent Ya'ir Fidel reports the Construction and Housing Ministry claims this was done with the consent of the Finance Ministry's Budget Department and a representative from that ministry's Accountant General's Department. It was further stated the Construction and Housing Ministry has a long-standing record of redeeming non-Jewish owned buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem according to a predetermined, approved budget earmarked for the purchase or building of structures on land that does not belong to the Israel Lands Administration.

Immigrants Taking Over Arab Jobs in Territories

TA2204111690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 22 Apr 90 p 8

[By Gad Li'or, economic correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] A great number of immigrants who have arrived in Israel during the past few months have taken the jobs of Arabs from the territories employed in industry, building, road-paving, and hotel businesses.

As a result, the number of laborers from the territories working within the boundaries of the Green Line and legally employed through the Employment Service has decreased by more than five percent, from 34,500 in 1989 to only 32,500 at the beginning of 1990. [passage omitted]

Air Force Crewmen Killed in Helicopter Collision

TA2304100090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0949 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Seven Israeli Air Force crewmen were killed last night in a collision between two Yas'ur [Sikorsky CH-53] helicopters. The accident took place in the Jordan Rift Valley. Our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el is in the studio with the details:

[Har'el] The accident took place last night at around 2140 in the Ba'al Hazor area. Seven Israeli Air Force crewmen were killed in the accident, which occurred during a training flight. The families of the victims have been notified. The Air Force commander has appointed a team to look into the circumstances of the accident. [passage omitted]

Polhill Freed; Speculation on Future Releases

IJLP Statement Reported

NC2204151590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] announced in Beirut this afternoon that it will free an American [hostage], whose name it did not disclose, within the next 24 hours. In a statement, which AFP said it has confirmed as correct, the organization requested Syrian Intelligence Chief in Lebanon Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an to be in Beirut during this time.

Further on Release

NC2204154290 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 22 (AFP)—An American hostage, whose identity was not immediately known, was freed in Syrian-controlled west Beirut Sunday, an AFP correspondent reported.

The release came at 5.25 p.m. (1525 GMT).

A man left a BMW car in front of a hotel at the southern entrance to the capital, where two vehicles belonging to Syrian intelligence authorities were waiting.

He entered one of the cars, which left immediately in a southerly direction toward the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Enroute to Damascus

LD2204163690 Hamburg DPA in German 1616 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Beirut/Damascus (DPA)—Following initially contradictory reports, it appears one American hostage in Lebanon has been released by the kidnappers this afternoon. The state radio station Radio Beirut has reported that an unnamed hostage was on the way to Damascus. This was confirmed in the Syrian capital. It was said the hostage was due to be handed over at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in about three hours. [passage omitted]

Israeli Affect on More Releases

NC2204165890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The one-page statement issued by the IJLP said that continued Israeli attacks will most certainly have grave consequences on the issue of the hostages, as well as on other issues. It expressed hope it will not be forced to escalate the situation again and undermine all that has been achieved.

Israel launched three air raids and a land attack on the resistance fighters' positions in south Lebanon during the past few days.

The IJLP wants the United States to pressure Israel to release around 400 Arabs from the Israeli prisons. Both Washington and Israel have said that they will not submit to the kidnappers' demands. [passage omitted]

Another Release in 'Few Days'

NC2204185990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The White House announced tonight that it cannot confirm the report about the release of the U.S. hostage [Robert Polhill]. Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the U.S. Administration does not have any information now, but the White House will issue a statement as soon as the release is confirmed.

Meanwhile, the U.S. hostage who was released in the Southern Suburb is expected to arrive in Damascus tonight. It was reported that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] received the hostage in front of a seashore hotel at the southern entrance to West Beirut. REUTER cited a senior security source in Beirut, which it described as pro-Syrian, and also pro-Iranian sources as saying a second hostage will be released within few days.

Polhill in Damascus

NC2204193290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] American hostage Robert Polhill, who was released this evening, arrived in Damascus a short while ago. He is now at the Syrian Foreign Ministry. U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian is expected to receive him soon. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi on Second Release

NC2304124890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1145 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi has confirmed the reports that another U.S. hostage will be released soon, following the release of Robert Polhill yesterday. Al-Musawi told our radio the possibility of the release exists, but when, how, and in exchange for what, we do not know. He said such a step is supposed to be in exchange for something, but he did not specify what.

In response to a question, al-Musawi said the possibility of releasing [Hizballah official] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd alone in exchange is not enough and is not a natural thing [as heard].

Commenting on TEHRAN TIMES' call for the release of another hostage, he said: What is published in this

newspaper normally gives an indication of something. [At 1215 GMT on 23 April (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic adds Islamic Amal Leader Husayn al-Musawi made the above statement in al-Biqa']

Report on Release of Iranians

NC2304134790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1245 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] According to informed sources in Beirut, the United States has convinced the Israeli authorities of the need to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and a number of Iranian hostages before 'Id al-Fitr. The same sources have told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY correspondent the U.S. authorities have told Tehran, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine organization, and a Western state that Israel has agreed to release the hostages. The sources maintained that a second U.S. hostage will be freed preparatory to the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and four Iranians detained in 'Atlit prison in occupied Palestine.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to create the right circumstances for the release of Red Cross employees Emanuel Christian and Elio Erriquez, who were kidnapped in Sidon on 6 October 1989.

The informed sources do not rule out the possibility that the positive atmosphere might reflect on the situation of all the Western hostages in Lebanon, particularly British hostage Terry Waite.

Lebanese Forces Intercept Passenger Ship

NC2304145490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Statement by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff]

[Text] A patrol of the Lebanese Forces naval force intercepted the ship Denis off the northern al-Matn coast at 0700 hours on 23 April to search it. After preliminary questioning of the ship's crew and Mr. George Karam, the shipping agent, it transpired the ship was on its way to dock at an illegal port. The ship was diverted to the legal port of Juniyah after the completion of investigations.

Based on authenticated information about attempts to bring arms and ammunition to certain quarters via some illegal ports—a matter which would prolong the war and the Lebanese people's ordeal—the Lebanese Forces warn all shipping agents and import-export offices which transport goods and passengers to the eastern ports by sea that they should use the legal ports, otherwise the ships will be intercepted and diverted to the legal ports. The Lebanese Forces hold any violator fully responsible for the consequences resulting from any breach of this instruction.

More on Ship; Explosion Denied

NC2304150490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Following the overnight shelling of the residential areas along the coast of northern al-Matn with rockets and artillery fire, Ja'ja' gunmen began to direct artillery fire at the outskirts of al-Dawrah as of this morning. Between 0930 and 1300, they used mortars and RPG's to shell army positions and residential areas from their positions in al-Ashrafiyah. On the al-Qulay'at front, the gunmen opened sniper fire at noon, then used rockets and artillery to shell al-Qulay'at, Darayya, and Bikfayya from their positions in Kasrawan until 1345. In Sinn al-Fil, one citizen was injured by the sniper fire of gunmen stationed in the al-Nab'ah area. Red Cross workers took him to the hospital.

In another development, gunboats belonging to [Ja'ja'] gunmen have intercepted a civilian passenger ship off the Lebanese coast and forced it to travel to Juniyah.

Meanwhile, one of the radios that are under the control of the gunmen reported an explosion took place in the al-Qulay'at Front Command in Bhannis. This report is totally unfounded. It is no longer surprising the gunmen's media should resort to fabricating news and spreading rumors that no longer fool anyone. A responsible source in the Ministry of Information has invited all local and foreign journalists to visit Bhannis to confirm the falsehood of this report.

[At the end of its 1200 GMT newscast, the radio adds: "Dear listeners, further to the report on the interception of the civilian ship, it has been learned the vessel is a passenger ship. It was travelling from Cyprus to al-Dubayyah when it was intercepted by Ja'ja' gunmen at 0700 this morning and forced to head for Juniyah port, where it is being held, along with its passengers. No further details are available on this act of piracy."]

Israeli Aircraft Strike Hizballah Position

NC2004190990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1906 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] We have just been informed Israeli warplanes raided the 'Ayn al-Tinah area in western al-Biqa' at 1900 today. The information adds a Hizballah position was the target of the Israeli raid. There have been no immediate reports on the losses resulting from the air strike.

Israeli Sorties Reported Over Southern Area

NC2304102290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the south today. Antiaircraft fire was opened on them from the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah, al-Miyah Wa-Miyah, and al-Rashidiyah camps.

Reportage on Release of U.S. Hostage Polhill

Freed in Beirut

NC2204182290 Paris AFP in English 1822 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, April 22 (AFP)—A U.S. hostage freed earlier Sunday in Beirut was Robert Polhill, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' al-Shara announced here.

Mr. al-Shar' said Mr. Polhill, a 55-year-old professor kidnapped January 24, 1987 in West Beirut, was on his way here.

Mr. Polhill was one of four teachers at Beirut University College abducted by the clandestine Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

Delivered to U.S. Ambassador

JN2204202790 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
2005 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' tonight handed over to U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian U.S. hostage Robert Polhill, who was released in Beirut this evening.

At a news conference conducted at the Foreign Ministry building, Polhill expressed his great happiness at being in Damascus, and his deep appreciation of the role played by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to secure his release.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said he is happy to see Polhill free after a long time in captivity, adding he hoped this release would be the beginning of the release of other hostages. Al-Shar' stressed this release will pave the way for the release of the other hostages, indicating Syria has worked closely with Iran to secure the release of the hostages.

For his part, U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian expressed his happiness, and said this is a long-awaited opportunity. He acknowledged his government's great appreciation of the efforts exerted by President Hafiz al-Asad, Faruq al-Shar', and other Syrian officials to release the hostages.

Recounts Life in Captivity

JN2204204090 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Interview with former U.S. hostage Robert Polhill by unidentified reporter in English followed by Arabic translation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Sir, in the name of all those who love peace in the world, in the name of the Syrian people, and in the name of Syrian television, welcome back to life, sir.

[Polhill] Thank you very much. It's a great pleasure to be back in life again.

[Reporter] Well, the man here is free, but other people are not, and you know what I mean. Sir, the microphone is yours now as a free man, for whatever time you want, and say whatever you want to say now, please.

[Polhill] Well, I would like to say first of all that I am very, very happy and very grateful to all the people who have spent so much time on my case. I am also at the same time still deeply concerned about my two friends and any other men who may be still held in the condition that I was held. Some, I understand, were even longer than I have been held. [sentence as heard] I feel my happiness tonight is a little bit toned down—quite a bit toned down—by the fact that they are not here with me. And I look forward to the day when perhaps we can get together, all of us, and....

[Reporter] Well, can you give just a permission just to sum up what you said. [sentence as heard] [reporter translates Polhill's last answer into Arabic] Excuse me for that.

[Polhill, laughing] It's quite right, and do it anytime you want because my Arabic is not that good, although I have learned a little in the last 39 months. I'm not sure where I want to go. I think it would be better if you probably ask me some questions that I can respond to, because to try and summarize in my own words 39 months of my life, that I have not had time to even begin reflecting upon yet, is a little difficult for me at this moment.

[Reporter] I'll ask you some specific questions. What was your first day in captivity like?

[Polhill] My first day in captivity was somewhat more memorable than the rest of the days in captivity. The remainder of our stay was, I think, fairly easily categorizable, as if I say it was boring. [sentence as heard] We were kept in a way to ensure the security of our being kept that prevented us from doing much of anything. [sentence as heard] We were not permitted to speak loudly, and as you can hear, I am not able to adjust to normal voice yet. We had some things to read, but we were deprived of the materials that would tell us anything about current news.

[Reporter] Well, I will ask you about reading material and other things, but let me just say this in Arabic in brief. [Reporter translates Polhill's previous answer into Arabic]

[Polhill] And as to our specific conditions, I can tell you that it could have been a lot worse. We were bored, as I said earlier, but we were not maltreated in any way. In fact, many of the young men who guarded us went out of their way to be polite to us and to be helpful to us, and to try to give us things within the restrictions placed upon them.

We had some books and some playing cards and no news—no news to speak of, at any rate. So we were very much in the dark about what our own status was. And this, next to being bored, was probably the worst part of the whole thing—that we just didn't know where we stood, whether we were about to be released, or whether

we were never going to be released, or what. In fact, I know that the two men I left behind, and undoubtedly others who are still in captivity in other places that I am not aware of, are feeling the same thing. They are highly encouraged that I have been released, although quite possibly they don't even know that.

[Reporter] Now I move to another question. What does the word freedom mean to you?

[Polhill] Freedom is something that, believe it or not, neither I nor I do believe my two associates have spent a lot of time thinking about. [sentence as heard] It is a bit like wishing you had a T-bone steak in front of you, knowing you are not going to get it right away, if ever. It would only make you want to get... [changes thought] make you more hungry, make you want that steak more. So we didn't spend a lot of time thinking or talking about freedom—too much what we were going to do when we got free. [as heard] Our most difficult assignment was to find things to think about in.... [reporter interrupts to translate]

[Polhill] ...to keep our minds active so that we didn't begin to vegetate. I don't know what the psychologists say about things like this, but my own belief that part of the symptom of a mind beginning to stray and go bad to the point of danger is the loss of anger, and I was angry about what was done to me—to be taken away from my wife and family and friends and students, and so I strived to continue to be angry, knowing at all times that if I began to lose that anger, then I would just sort of become a vegetable, and I didn't want that to happen.

[Reporter] Let me move to another question now. What do you like to say to the world?

[Polhill] One thing I probably should say is that I was a little bit surprised today to find out that the specific demand that these men are making and want the world to know about and want the world governments to know about seems to be precisely the same demand they made about two weeks after we were kidnapped. So that we seem to be right back at ground zero. They had asked in a tape recording—videotape recording that Alann Steen made a couple of weeks after we were kidnapped—for the release of 400 prisoners held in Israeli jails, and today about the last words I heard from one of them as they went out that this was still their demand, and that they still want those 400 people out. I don't know if it's the same 400, or who they might be, or anything about it. Aside from that, I don't have any other messages that I think I am supposed to be—and I am just guessing now—I guess that I am supposed to be carrying to the people of the world, or the governments of the world, or to the United Nations, or to whomever might be concerned here. And as I say, I find that rather surprising. I thought that things would have changed a great deal over the three years, I would have thought that many of those 400 had been released, in fact. I don't know.

[Reporter] Now, what are you planning to do in the future?

[Polhill] I really don't have any plans for the future yet, except to see my wife and my mother and my sons and friends, family, people that I haven't seen for at least three years—39 months. And together, collectively, we'll talk about things like that—what my future will hold.

[Reporter] Welcome again, sir. Welcome back to life. We are happy that you are released.

[Polhill] Thank you.

Paper on Release, Israeli Role

JN2304064990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 23 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Syria's Humanitarian Role," TISHRIN says: Syrian Arab television last night reported the release of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill and conducted an interview with him. TISHRIN says Syria has made and continues to make huge efforts to safeguard the lives of hostages and to contribute toward their release. As leader al-Asad said: Abduction is a crime, and from a humanitarian premise, we will make efforts, as we did in the past, or whenever we can for the sake of the abducted persons.

TISHRIN proceeds from the issue of hostages to talking about the nature of terrorism and those responsible for it in the region. The paper affirms the Zionist entity and its repeated aggressions in Palestine and southern Lebanon have created constant factors of tension in the region.

Human Rights Group Denounces Iraqi 'Violations'

JN2004075299 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut—The Committee for Defense of Human Rights in Iraq has continued its condemnation and denunciation of the inhuman practices and the genocide carried out by the Iraqi regime against its citizens. In a statement today, the committee said the Iraqi regime's authorities have forced a large number of citizens into exile after confiscating all of their personal documents, money, and property.

The committee added the Iraqi regime's policy of expulsion and displacement and its committing of genocide using internationally-banned weapons confirm that the regime persists in violating human rights in Iraq, the universal declaration on human rights, and all international norms and charters.

The statement noted the large number of violations committed by the Iraqi regime, and its inhuman and illegal practices against the Iraqi people have forced more than 2 million Arab citizens to flee their homeland.

The statement said the ruling regime in Baghdad tops the list of the world's fascist regimes in violating human

rights, adding it was the only regime to use internationally-banned weapons against its citizens in an action which, according to international law, is considered a crime of genocide.

TISHRIN Assails Iraq's 'Terrorist Policy'

*JN2104133290 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
16 Apr 90 p 8*

[Izz-al-Din al-Darwish article in the "Behind the Events" column: "Iraq's People Will not Submit"]

[Text] Reports from Baghdad say the Saddam regime is continuing its terrorist policy against the Iraqi people, particularly against the citizens in the north, who, each day, face more repressive measures, including direct and massive killing for minor reasons or for doubts about their loyalty to the regime.

Statements by Iraqi nationalist forces note the regime's repressive machinery is escalating its campaign in northern Iraq and performing most of its terrorist practices there, including physical liquidation, torture, arrests, and displacement, without any consideration for the simplest rights of citizens or human rights.

The repressive measures carried out by the Iraqi regime are not new, but an established policy written in the form of decisions and laws that stem from a long and bloody history. The Iraqi regime, which was founded on killing and destruction, adopted, from the very beginning, a policy against the Iraqi people's aspirations and their pan-Arab and national hopes. The regime is still following the same policy; that is, of terrorism, arrests, and liquidation to satisfy the whims of tyranny and superiority, and to benefit at the expense of the people's food and the potential for a secure and stable homeland.

The overwhelming majority of the Iraqi people are—in the opinion of the regime's authorities—conspirators and deserve punishment. The Iraqis' loyalty to their homeland—Iraq and the Arab nation—would not avail them, because loyalty according to these repressive authorities should be to Saddam only, no matter what he does, says, or wants. If an Iraqi is not loyal to Saddam, he is classified as traitor and added to the list for liquidation, arrest, or displacement.

What the Iraqi regime spends on its repressive organs and tools is unbelievable; it always uses the most modern methods and those highest qualified in the field of terrorism and killing, and employs these methods and fascist qualifications throughout Iraq. All Iraqi people are vulnerable to the regime's executioners and to the terrorism of the ruling regime.

Despite all this, the regime's policy reveals it is living in a state of terror as a result of its isolation, the comprehensive popular hostility to it, and the escalation of acts of resistance against it. The Iraqi people, who never accepted injustice throughout their history, are doing what they can in their confrontation with the ruling fascist regime and sacrificing many lives in their national campaign to remove this regime and its effects from Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi people are showing resolute resistance and reaffirming, each day, that they will pay the Iraqi regime back twofold and make the executioners taste bitterness when they place them in the dock to exact a just punishment on them for their treason against the homeland and nation and for disregarding the people's rights.

Interior Minister on People's Assembly Nominations

*JN2304094190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] Damascus—Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has declared that nominations for the People's Assembly elections concluded at the end of official duty hours yesterday, and that the number of nominees in all provinces totals 9,765, distributed between categories A and B. The minister added that as stipulated by the General Election Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 26 for 1973 and its instructions, nomination committees in the provinces will continue their task of giving nominees who submitted nomination applications final notification of acceptance of their nomination for their electoral constituencies and the categories to which they belong. Dr. Harbah indicated that after receiving final notification their nomination has been accepted, nominees can start their election campaigns within their constituencies and according to the relevant laws and regulations.

The minister indicated the People's Assembly elections are part of the popular democracy, the bases of which were founded by the glorious Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad. He affirmed our militant masses are called upon to elect experienced and qualified nominees who can bear the responsibility. He affirmed that by applying sound judgement in electing qualified nominees, we will be entrenching the democratic course we are following under the historic leadership of strug-gler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Concluding his statement, the minister said the Ministry has completed the final election preparations to help citizens exercise their right in a democratic atmosphere that gives citizens full freedom to elect their nominees.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Kabul City Party Plenum

LD2204224490 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1630 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at the Kabul Party Committee Plenum; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear Comrades, first of all, on behalf of the Politburo, I congratulate comrade Wali on his election to the responsible post of Kabul party secretary, which undertakes the leadership of the great party organization of the capital. We believe that by electing comrade Wali, who has been raised and trained in this organization and has had certain role in its strengthening and development, your party committee has rendered a correct election. Such an election in conditions when our party, as a whole, is striving toward its resolute reconstruction, enjoys particular importance. We believe that the new city party committee secretary, who enjoys sufficient experience in political-organizational work and healthy political and independent thinking, has and should have the ability for active struggle against all forms of negative phenomena. Together with his colleagues in the collective, he should be able to create and introduce in the face of the city party organization a good example of a reconstructed organization, free of political ills and with a high level of mobility and working.

Dear Comrades, a variety of defensive, economic, and cultural tasks emanating from the decisions of the Plenum in the month of Hout [19 February - 20 March] and of previous plenums, are before you. First, however, as your present Plenum has been devoted to organizational matters, and second, because the accomplishment of the party policy in various directions depends on the degree of organizational consolidation and political health—in other words, on the form of the organization's reconstruction—it is necessary for a number of matters in this regard to be highlighted. Today, the question of the necessity of reconstructing the party is being debated everywhere. What is the reconstruction of the party?

Reconstruction is not a routine, fanciful concept for utterance, it is a comprehensive phenomenon that states the necessity of eliminating the gap between our party and the realities of Afghan society. In other words, the party must pass with courage from all the norms, principles, and methods causing its isolation from the people and weakening its social base. Also, the party must set itself more realistic aims which are practical in their (essence) and in accord with the interests and demands of the majority of the people of Afghanistan. As an example, in the all-party conference of 1366 [1987-88], it was clarified that in the current phase our party's aim is not the construction of socialism in Afghanistan. At the present moment, the most important, most principled, most fundamental duty of the party is the establishment of peace and the reconstruction of our war-torn country. On the surface, no one doubts the correctness of this

formula because everyone knows that without the maintenance of peace, not only is society incapable of development, but it gradually goes toward a fall. However, very little has been understood by our comrades that such a selection of goals is a principally new selection compared to goals such as the struggle for socialism in the country, the region, and finally the world. This has been ruling the thinking of our party members for more than 20 years. Also, this point has been forgotten, too, that a change in fundamental political goal inevitably necessitates rethinking one's aims in the economic, social, and cultural areas, as well as the method of struggle toward one's goals. It is here that a number of party members, and even senior cadres, have not realized the necessity of change in the means necessary for arriving at the party's aims in accordance with fundamentally new tasks.

In documents of the conference and the Central Committee Plenum, it has been noted repeatedly that there is no military solution for the problems of our country. Therefore, the logical conclusion is drawn that in pursuing the idea of a political solution to the existing social crisis, old ways of exercising political power—such as unilateral reliance on war and military pressure, the monopoly of political power, the crushing of those thinking differently, and the imposition of the leadership's will on the party rank and file at the cost of a categorical preference for centralism on the principle of democracy—also should be replaced by new civil and human means, by which I mean dialogue, understanding, legality, democracy, and coalition. In choosing new means and ends for the party's future campaigns, the question also arises whether the party's structural norms and principles enjoy the necessary flexibility to conform with new circumstances of activities. It is natural that party cannot conform with new circumstance without the acceptance of due changes in this field.

Where ideology is concerned, things are like this: By pursuing an ideology inclined toward the construction of a socialist society, we cannot achieve the implementation of current tasks that brook no delay. The only acceptable ideology at this stage is a system of ideologies about national reconciliation. There is no place for extremism on either side or for the total and blind approval or disapproval of this or that system of views. In the process of drafting part views on national reconciliation, we lean first and foremost on the religious beliefs, traditions, and customs of the people of Afghanistan and the experience of more than three years implementing national reconciliation. That said, we do value the experience of people in other countries of the world and use the useful views of the world's great scholars and thinkers without bias, yet without subservience—without bias, yet without subservience—in line with our own country's special circumstances for the enrichment of the national reconciliation idea, which is our policy. In this way, the renewal of the party is the adoption of a complete system of courageous decisions for making its

program more realistic, for becoming closer to the people, and for enhancing its life capability in conditions of expanding democracy.

What kind of party should the renewed party be? In the Central Committee Plenum of the month of Hout, some of its future characteristics were defined as follows: The party of all aware elements; the party of all patriotic, national, democratic, peace-loving, and progressive elements of Afghanistan, regardless of their national, social, or belief affiliations; a party that will have no unilateral commitment to prototype ideologies and will not want to try to forcibly march society in that direction; a party that is heir to the good traditions of constitutional monarchy, freedom-lovers, and Afghan democrats; a party that continues unhurriedly a wide-scale campaign for the defense of the high national interest of the people of Afghanistan, for the attainment of permanent peace, justice, democracy, and the progress of our beloved country in total conformity with the conditions of society, and the beliefs and traditions of our people; a party that has initiated the expansion of democracy, political pluralism, and the consolidation of national unity; a party that has the Afghan human and his prosperity at the center of its attention; and finally, a party that was proposed and offered a national reconciliation policy and campaigns bravely and unshakably for its all-out entrenchment and expansion.

Therefore, ample reasons exist for the reconstructed party to be identified as a party of peace and reconstruction, in other words, a party based on national and Islamic foundations, a non-communist party. [applause]

Some people, hearing such characteristics of the reconstructed party, might show surprise and accuse us of deviation, surrender, etc., but Comrades, the point here is not one of deviation, but of correcting past attitudes. Let us be clear: From the viewpoint of its organization, conditions of activity, social base, and true objectives and tasks, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has never been a communist party and could not have been one. The fundamental objective of the party was and is to serve the people of Afghanistan. However, even those party members and leaders who were pretending to be communists and who still beat this false stone of pretension to their chests have never been and will not be able to go among the faithful Muslim peasants, who constitute the absolute majority of our society, defending the communist title and ideology.

I would like to mention one hard fact: Who can claim that more than 95 percent of party members who joined the party ranks after the revolution are communists or Marxist-Leninists? Most of them would regard such a title as an accusation. Go to the villages and factories, and among the workers. Ask them why they have joined the party: Your answer will be that they joined the party in order to defend the homeland, to insure peace, and to improve people's living standards. No one will tell you they have joined the party, for example, by studying scientific communism or materialist philosophy. Above

all, most such comrades, who make up an absolute majority in the party, do not even have an elementary understanding of such thoughts, even after a decade of party membership.

It is true that a number of party intellectuals in the prerevolution years, in the hot beds of political struggles, were fond of such theories, and that they truly believed that following such theories would end our people's sufferings. However, such comrades presently do not make up more than three or four percent of the party. Second, based on all evidence, their understanding of such thoughts is very isolated and bookish. Third, the experience of more than 10 years of war has proved that contrary to their honest beliefs, the road we pursued not only did not end the people's sufferings, but increased the volume and scope of these sufferings to tragic dimensions.

Now the question is: What should be done? Should we transform the theoretical and practical foundations of party activity by studying the bitter but valuable lessons of the past and by objectively assessing present realities in the party and society? Or should we force the great mass of party members and the absolute majority of the people of Afghanistan to think like a few party intellectuals and to look at events from the point of view of the latter?

Naturally, [words indistinct]. They might propose a third way: Let us be Marxist-Leninists, but tell the people something else. There will be no such stupid approach as this because if they cannot be truthful to the people, how can they render them service and how can they expect to attract the trust of the people? Our party, which during all the years of struggle sincerely fought for the progress of the homeland and the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan, still believes in the righteousness of these aims and has the courage to declare categorically and with a clear voice that its past life was not free of mistakes and shortcomings and that today it is capable of resolutely overcoming these mistakes.

Of course, we do not intend to completely reject the founders of various methods of thought. There are countries and parties in the world who are following them. For example, Marxist-Leninist thought has been followed, but the fundamental condition for the reconstruction of our party is to find Afghan solutions to the problems of Afghan society. If we forget this valuable lesson, learned at the cost of more than 10 years of war and three years' experience of reconciliation, we will not have a place among our people.

Today our society is striving with firm steps toward the further realization of the national reconciliation policy. The dynamic activity of the parties, organizations, and political and social personalities of the country toward the creation of the peace front, the positioning of ever-broader groups of commanders and members of the

armed opposition groups in the line of peace and reconciliation and the efforts of the state toward the convocation of the Grand Assembly and the introduction of amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan in the interests of democracy and pluralism all accelerate our progress in the direction of peace. Under the influence and advance of peace movement among the Afghans, the position of the leaders of the Alliance of Seven and Alliance of Nine also has been witness to certain changes in which the fundamental tendency has been the isolation of extremists and fundamentalists.

On international level, too, on the eve of the June summit of the leaders of the two superpowers, positive signs toward the acceptance of a political solution as the only way of settlement are increasing. All these changes make the reconstruction of the party an important matter that brooks no delay because the experience of the ruling parties in Eastern Europe very clearly proved that the chances for survival of every party under the new political system of the country, particularly in the East European countries, are directly proportional to their realization of the importance of the time factor. This means that those parties that delayed the introduction of reforms and the discarding of their previous incorrect stands miserably lost their credit and prestige among the people. Therefore it is right that our people say: Those who did not learn from the passing of time, learned nothing in (?no time).

Let us concentrate on another important question: Who should implement reconstruction? Reconstruction is not the duty of the Central Committee and the party leadership committees alone. It is the duty of every party member, activist, and particularly of the party cadres. In order to pass the great test before it, the party needs cadres who correctly comprehend the national reconciliation policy and the necessity of reconstructing the party, who consciously believe in it, who have the necessary talent, and finally, who intend to work under the new conditions. In other words, the party is in need of fresh cadres, cadres for reconciliation, cadres for a reconstructed party.

Luckily, over the past years a large number of such talented cadres have been nurtured in the school of national reconciliation. It is necessary to look after our cadres, who are the valuable treasure of our party; help them in the more profound understanding of party policy and the inevitable needs of present time; and assign them to responsible tasks with valor and immense confidence. We are confident that comrade Wali and the Executive Bureau of the Kabul Party Committee will make work with party cadres the focus of their activity, and will not allow even a single talented party member to become prey to dogmatic mottos, on the one hand, or demagogic, conservative mottos on the other. The present moment is one of resolute choice for party cadres. Every one of our cadres must give a clear answer to this question: Should we be with peace and reconciliation, or with movements opposing it? We have full

confidence that all sound party cadres will support without hesitation the decisions of the Central Committee to renew the party and expand the national reconciliation policy. Those who nod in agreement with both national reconciliation and its opponents cannot be of any service, even to themselves. Renewal is alien to hesitation, and first and foremost requires frankness and resoluteness of cadres.

Dear Comrades, fateful, active days lie before our party. We approach the second party congress in the not too distant future. This congress will respond to various questions on the future of the party, and will become a great turning point in the 26-year history of party. However, taking such a great step, of which the party leadership in the past was always afraid, requires great organizational and political work. First of all, two questions are being put forward in this regard:

First, who will find their way to the congress of the party? The real representatives of the party organization, those who are voted for by party members on the basis of reason and conscience, taking into account their merits, talents, and popularity among people? Or the representative of factions, groups, and circles who will impose themselves on party organizations through cowardly and demagogic acts and by resorting to unseemly methods? We have full confidence in the sensibility and free vote of our party's sound members, but it does not mean that our party committees will take an indifferent approach to the knowingly subversive activities of factionists and opportunists because some comrades might not be prepared for the adoption of the experience of broad democracy in the party after a quarter of century of opinionated tendency in the party leadership. Toeing the party line will not be void of difficulties for such comrades because they are like those who have taken off from a standing start. Although dogmatist, conservative and opportunist elements also count on this matter, factional, secessionist, and sectorial activities have nothing in common with the phenomenon of intraparty democracy because such acts cause the weakening and subversion of the party, while the enhancement of democracy will bring about the further strengthening of the party. Surely the Kabul Party Committee will act with care and complete wisdom in this respect and will organize party members in the only correct way, that of reason and the free choice of every party member.

Second: How should the party's past be treated in the course of assessing the life of the party in the period of two congresses? One of the fundamental tasks of the congress will be to equip the party with a new scientific and practical program for its future action and activity. A move toward the future from the present time cannot be sufficiently amiable without the objective, logical, and determined assessment of the past because in our past a valuable legacy of positive experiences exists which should be safeguarded and utilized creatively in our future work and activity. There also are a great number of mistakes, deviations, and incorrect approaches in our past vis-a-vis the problems of our

society. The party should immediately and decisively say good bye to them and learn from them lessons for the future.

Undoubtedly, a principled assessment of the past has necessary advantages for the party, as a whole, and for every one of its cadres. There is no other path because if defending mistakes and shortcomings results in the eternal misguidance of political parties, remaining silent about them also means the admissibility of incorrect policies. Such an approach, in particular, could be more damaging than can be imagined at a time when we are at the threshold of making great and very important decisions. Therefore, the critical assessment of the party's past is an objective necessity.

However, such an assessment is not aimed at insulting, belittling, or subverting this or that party personality. Its aim will be the assessment of the methods and consequences of party policies concerning specific matters in its specific life framework. The most important thing now is that every party member should realise the importance of the party congress and—with their work and daily activity for the realization of the national reconciliation policy, the consolidation of the party organization, and the strengthening of their links with the people—welcome this great forum of their party.

In this regard, we count on the Kabul party organization. We believe that your organization, which in the course of the realization of the national reconciliation policy and the independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan has been an outstanding example for other party organizations, once again [words indistinct] in the reconstruction of the party and its future [words indistinct].

Rebel Leader Supports General Elections Proposal

BK2204113290 London BBC World Service in English
0215 GMT 22 Apr 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The leader of one of the Afghan guerrilla groups based in Pakistan, Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, has come out in support of holding general elections in Afghanistan. Mr. Gaylani said he would not accept elections supervised by the Kabul administration, but he suggested that individuals who won elections in government-controlled areas could take part in a traditional assembly with successful candidates from other areas to choose the new government. Lyce Doucet reports from Islamabad on his proposal:

[Begin Doucet recording] Mr. Gaylani's statement comes as guerrilla leaders here and senior Pakistani officials prepare to discuss the new political formula beginning to emerge in talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. Differences still exist between the superpowers, but they have been narrowed in recent weeks with both sides agreeing that general elections may be the best way to end the long-running war. The main issues to resolve are who should run and who would supervise any polls.

Until now, Afghan guerrilla leaders have vehemently ruled out any participation by President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan—the PDPA. But, informed sources say Washington would like to see the kind of general elections that, for example, Eastern European countries and Nicaragua have organized. The ruling communist parties participated but lost. Mr. Gaylani is the first Afghan guerrilla leader to publicly express his support for this idea. His party is known as the most liberal of the Pakistani-based groups, and his public commitment to general elections may help break the political logjam which has frustrated numerous international efforts to end the war. It may also assist efforts by the guerrillas' main ally—Pakistan—to persuade the mujahidin leadership to accept some elements of Afghanistan's ruling party. [end recording]

Finance Minister Returns From USSR Visit

LD2104184290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Hamidullah Tarzi, the minister of finance of the Republic of Afghanistan, who visited the USSR as delegation head at the invitation of the minister of finance of that country, has returned home.

During its stay in the USSR, the delegation met with the authorities of the ministers of finance and foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union, with heads of international investment banks in the Soviet Union, and with heads of chambers of commerce of that country, and talked to them on mixed and bilateral investment in the domestic and foreign [as heard] private sector, in keeping with the Investment Law. The consent of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR has been obtained on the supply of agricultural tractors to Agricultural Development Bank of the Republic of Afghanistan. Also, talks were conducted between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR on cooperation in the private sector, and agreements have been concluded on providing very good (?grants) in the fields of finance, administration, corporations, and banking to the Republic of Afghanistan for the year 1369 (1990, starting 21 March).

Rebel Missiles Hit Kabul Mosque; Two Killed

LD2004171190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] By firing four U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles at residential regions of Kabul today, during this holy month of fasting and on sacred Friday, the Pakistan-backed extremists again have perpetrated another shocking and unforgivable crime against our religious Muslim people. The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of this anti-Islamic and inhumane action, two of our fasting compatriots were martyred and another 23 injured.

The missile fired by the extremists at the time of Friday prayers hit the Baluchan mosque located in the Bedi

Mahro region, where most of the injuries caused by today's firing of missiles occurred. Those injured were quickly taken to hospitals, where they were put under intensive treatment. Two of these missiles were of the cluster type and the scattered mines were quickly defused and removed by the security personnel.

As a result of missiles fired today, material losses also were inflicted on our compatriots and the Baluchan communal mosque of Bedi Mahro was seriously damaged.

State Security Performs 'Mopping-Up Operation'

*LD2004220790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 20 Apr 90*

[Text] To prevent terrorist actions by the Pakistani-backed extremists the organs of the Ministry of State Security carried out a mopping-up operation yesterday in the surroundings of Dehsabz District. The BAKHTAR military section reported that in the course of this mopping-up operation two U.S.-made [as heard] SAKR-30 surface-to-surface missiles which were deployed to be fired at residential regions of Kabul, were discovered on time and moved away.

Mujahidin Destroy 2 Transport Planes, Kill 14

*BK2104114290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT
21 April 0*

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 21 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have destroyed two Afghan government transport planes in the past 24 hours, killing at least 14 soldiers, resistance sources said Saturday [21 April]. Both were destroyed at Khowst, one while landing at the airport late Friday [20 April] while the second was destroyed on the tarmac during a rocket attack on the beleaguered garrison town in southeastern Afghanistan Saturday, the pro-resistance Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said. According to reports the planes were from a squadron of five government planes loaded with essential items that flew to Khowst late Friday, four landing safely.

A large quantity of ammunition was destroyed in the attack that left at least 14 soldiers dead, AIP said. It said low level clashes were continuing around Khowst, located 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Pakistani border, with government aircraft continuing retaliatory bombing strikes.

The airport and the town of Khowst came under direct attack by guerrillas following the seizure of the nearby Tora Ghar mountains in mid-February.

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture Posts in Konduz

*BK2104140290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] In Afghanistan, all Kabul regime posts in Aliabad [word indistinct] district of Konduz Province are

reported to have been captured by mujahidin, following a well-coordinated attack in the area. A large number of arms and ammunition have been captured. Seven militiamen of the Kabul regime were killed, while a mujahidin commander, Mr. Saifullah, popularly known as Qandahari, and another mujahid were martyred.

According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], nearly 80 Kabul regime troops have died in operations launched by the mujahidin in Qandahar and Zabol Provinces. Of them, 67 officers and soldiers were killed when rockets were fired by the mujahidin on the south of (?this) area of Qandahar city. An ammunition depot which caught fire during the attack was gutted. In the capital of Zabol Province, Qalat, 12 Kabul regime troops were killed and three others captured during attacks on the [name indistinct] post.

Paghman District Combat Operations Detailed

*LD2104165190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] To prevent the terrorist actions by the Pakistani-backed extremists the units and sub-units of the Kabul garrison general command have been carrying out mopping-up and combat operations around Paghman District during the past three days.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that in the course of these activities and operations over 100 extremists including five Saudi Wahhabis, were killed and 12 U.S.-made [as heard] SAKR-20 surface-to-surface missiles with 200 of their warheads, 200 (?Mezael) type surface-to-surface missiles, 133 rocket launcher shells, 29 hand grenades, 10,000 rounds of DSHK ammunition, 11,000 rounds of [word indistinct] ammunition, 21 boxes of light machine gun ammunition, 316 shells for recoilless guns, and 18 enemy mines were seized by the units and companies of the armed forces.

Moreover, 26 enemy ammunition and food depots and dozens of hideouts were set on fire and destroyed.

Officials Confiscate Rockets, Mortars in Bagram

*LD2104175690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] Officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Department of Campaign Against Felony recently detected and confiscated four U.S. SAKR-30 ground-to-ground rockets [as heard] and 19 mortar shells in the area of Bagram District in Parvan Province. The BAKHTAR military section reports: The rockets were deployed in the area to be launched at the residential areas of the district and for carrying out terrorist acts. They were detected and carried away in time with the cooperation of local people.

Bangladesh

3,000 Marchers Support Palestinian Cause, Kashmir

BK2004154690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 20 (AFP)—Some 3,000 Muslim demonstrators held a brief march here Friday in support of independence movements in Palestine and Kashmir, and burnt U.S. and Israeli flags in protest, witnesses said. The demonstrators, emerging from a huge weekly congregation at Dhaka's Baitul Mokarram National Mosque, carried banners and shouted slogans before setting the flags on fire, they said.

The march was called jointly by several local religious groups, in conjunction with several Muslim countries, to mark al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day. It was announced by the Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Conference. The day was decreed in 1979 by the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to protest events at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Arab East Jerusalem, which was occupied by Israel after the 1967 six-day Arab-Israeli war. A truck-load of police followed the demonstrators until they dispersed peacefully.

The demonstrators condemned Washington for backing Israel against the Palestinian uprising, and called on the world's Muslims to take up arms to liberate the holy mosque from Jewish occupation. The protesters also shouted slogans supporting the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir in their armed struggle to secede from India.

President Visits Flooded Areas, Views Damage

BK2204162890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpts] President Ershad today visited the upazila [subdistrict] headquarters and the nearby haor [marshy land] areas of Sunamganj District to see for himself the extent of damage of boro [paddy variety] crop due to incessant rain and onrush of hilly water from across the border. Incessant rain in the adjoining Indian state of Meghalaya has caused flash flood in the haor and low-lying areas of the upazila and damaged standing crop on 12,000 acres of land. The president was informed that crops damaged by the onrush of water in the upazila was around 2.75 lakh tons. Besides, crops on about 7,000 acres of land also prematurely dried up due to weather variations and damaged due to hailstorm. District administration sources said onrush of water has caused breaches in the WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] embankment along the Hail Haor, aggravating the situation. President Ershad reached the (Nambad) village on the bank of the Hail Haor by a speedboat and saw stacks of green paddy which were harvested prematurely. He talked to the affected farmers and listened to their plights. Official sources say other upazilas of the district have also been affected by the flash floods. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, flash floods have caused heavy damage to two upazilas of Habiganj District following incessant rain and onrush of water from hilly areas. The upazilas are Habiganj Sadar and Lakhai. Swelling waters from Khowai River has caused breaches in two places in Khowai embankment. As a result, standing iri [paddy variety] and boro crops on 20,000 acres of land have gone under water and over 30,000 people have been rendered homeless. Our Sylhet representative says relief operations have been geared up in the affected areas. [passage omitted]

India

Gujral Departs for UN; To Meet Yaqub Khan

BK2104032090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] A six-day special UN session begins in New York on Monday [23 April] to deal with economic matters. A high-level Indian delegation led by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, left New Delhi this morning to attend the session. The delegation includes three MP's [members of Parliament]—Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, and Mr. Sudarshan Roy Choudhury—and a noted scholar, Dr. Rafiq Zakaria, and senior officials. A ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries will also be held in New York on Tuesday [24 April].

The external affairs minister is scheduled to have exchange of views with the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on bilateral relations and recent developments.

Gujral: No Discussion With Pakistan on Kashmir

BK2204074890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, has ruled out any discussion on the Kashmir issue with the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in New York next week. Speaking at a function organized by the Punjabi Unity Forum in London last evening, Mr. Gujral said they would be meeting with a view to easing tension between India and Pakistan. Mr. Gujral was in London on his way to New York to attend the special UN session.

Earlier, speaking to newsmen, Mr. Gujral said that the National Front government believes in having good relations with all its neighbors, including Pakistan. He said India believes in a peaceful solution of bilateral problems.

Minister Alleges Afghan Rebels Training Kashmiris

BK2204083190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, is visiting the border areas of Rajaori

and Poonch in Jammu region today. He visited Doda, Kishtwar, and Bhadarwah towns yesterday. A number of unemployed youths, government employees, lawyers, as well as workers of various political parties discussed their problems with Mr. Fernandes.

Talking to newsmen in Jammu yesterday evening, Mr. Fernandes said that the people of the region have promised to maintain communal harmony and urged the government to sort out problems created by frequent curfew. He said while action to flush out subversives is essential, it is important to take measures so that the common people in the region do not face problems owing to prolonged curfew.

Mr. Fernandes said interrogation of the arrested subversives has revealed that 3,000-4,000 Kashmiri youths were undergoing training in about 40 terrorist training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Some of the Kashmiri youths were being trained in guerrilla warfare by Afghan rebels.

Mr. Fernandes hoped that a meeting between the Indian and Pakistan foreign ministers in New York will help ease tension between the two countries.

As reported earlier, six Pakistan-trained subversives were killed and 37 arrested in four encounters with security forces near the line of control in Kashmir Valley yesterday.

Singh Warns Pakistan Against 'Misadventure'

*BK2204130690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[Excerpt] The prime minister has warned Pakistan that India will give a befitting reply if Islamabad indulges in any misadventure to threaten its unity. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was addressing a public meeting in Gangtok this afternoon. He said though India is always willing to have friendly relations with Pakistan, Islamabad constantly encouraged subversives to foment trouble in the Kashmir Valley.

Referring to India's relations with Nepal, the prime minister said prospects of improvement in our relations with that country have considerably improved following restoration of democracy there.

He said the recent visit of the Chinese foreign minister has helped in promoting understanding between India and China. The prime minister announced a package of assistance for Sikkim's development in sectors such as industry, telecommunications, power, and technical education. [passage omitted]

Home Minister Rules Out Talks on Kashmir

*BK2204133890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[Text] The union home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has ruled out talks with anyone on Kashmir

under the threat of a gun. Talking to newsmen in Srinagar today, he said there can be no compromise with the unity and integrity of the country. The home minister said that security along the border is being beefed up to check ingress of subversives. He said there is no let up in Pakistan's efforts to stoke subversive activities in the valley despite its offer for talks at the foreign ministers' level. The Mufti said a subsidiary security belt is being created along the border to plug the chinks in the security arrangement.

BJP Leader Accuses Bhutto of 'War Hysteria'

*BK2204160390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has accused Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto of building up a war hysteria on the Indian border to divert her people's attention from the severe domestic problems facing the country. He was speaking in Vijaywada today. Mr. Advani said he was shocked at the irresponsible and provocative speeches of Ms. Bhutto, which clearly showed an attempt to incite insurgency and terrorism in Kashmir. He said Kashmir's accession to India is not negotiable.

Premier: Pakistan Moving Troops Closer to Border

*BK2304033190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said that a number of measures are being initiated to bring down the prices of sugar, tea, edible oils, steel, and cement. He was speaking to newsmen at Bagdogra Airport yesterday evening at the conclusion of his one-day visit to Sikkim. [passage omitted]

Referring to the situation on the border with Pakistan, he said Pakistan has activated its radars and moved its troops nearer to the border. He said Pakistan wants to achieve its territorial aims through insurgency. That is why he has to take the nation into confidence.

Human Rights Groups Allege Violations in Kashmir

*BK2204103690 London BBC World Service in English
0215 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] One Pakistani soldier was reported to have been killed in the latest clash between Indian and Pakistani troops across the cease-fire line in Kashmir. It came as the Indian home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, was visiting Kashmir to discuss the effects of the almost continuous curfew that has been imposed there during the confrontation with the Muslim separatist movement. The security forces have been making extensive house-to-house searches and large numbers of arrests, which have allegedly given rise to human rights abuses. Here is our Delhi correspondent Mark Tully:

[Begin Tully recording] More than 1,000 arrests have been made during the house-to-house searches so far. The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said that many of those arrested are important separatists. He has claimed that the draconian curfew has revealed what he called the contours of terrorism and has maintained that it had to be imposed because of the kidnapping of a vice chancellor and two others and their murder later. The authorities appear to be encouraged that there was no serious trouble during the first break in the curfew throughout Srinagar. Many shops opened and they had plenty of customers. The authorities fear that there might be more large anti-Indian demonstrations if the curfew is finally lifted. Srinagar and several other Kashmir towns have been under curfew for most of the time since anti-Indian demonstrations broke out three months ago. At least three Indian human rights groups have visited the state during that time and all found evidence of abuses. One group said cases of what it called blatant violations of human rights were not aberrations but part of official policy. When the team discussed the human rights violations with senior officials, they justified them as necessary to contain what they called terrorism. Foreign correspondents are not allowed into Kashmir, but my colleague, Satish Jacob, who is an Indian, was in Srinagar earlier this week, and he met a large number of people who are enraged by the manner in which their houses have been searched. One of those who complained was a senior officer of the Kashmir police, another a woman who said that soldiers had stolen gold and money and beaten members of her family. [end recording]

'Four Top Kashmiri Militants' Arrested in Delhi

BK2004144490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Delhi police today arrested four top Kashmiri militants in the walled city area. According to police sources the arrests were made on the tip off from J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] police. The four prominent members of the Jammāt-i-Islami, a recently banned organization, were wanted in a number of cases of subversive and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Six 'Subversives' Killed at Kashmir Border

BK2004161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces achieved another breakthrough today when they killed six subversives and injured five in the five kilometers along the India-Pakistan border where a dusk-to-dawn curfew is in force. Six others have been apprehended.

The security forces ambushed a group of 19 terrorists who were trying to cross over to this side from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with arms and ammunition. A huge haul of arms has also been captured. They include AK-47, RPG rocket launchers with four rockets, pistols, and grenades.

The operations were still on when last reports came in.

Security Forces Arrest 23, Kill 4 in Kashmir

BK2104125890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, in the continuing house-to-house searches, the security forces arrested 23 subversives in Srinagar and Pulwama today. With these, the number of subversives and their harborers arrested during the past two weeks in the Kashmir valley has gone up to 400. A large number of them belonged to the outlawed organizations.

Four subversives were killed and five injured when the security forces ambushed them while they were returning from Pak-occupied Kashmir after training. The incident took place last night within five km near the border belt. This is the second incident in the last two days in the border areas.

The union minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, today visited Doda District of Jammu Division. He met a number of deputations and held discussions with them.

Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed for varying periods in Srinagar and other towns in the Kashmir valley today. Curfew was also relaxed in Bhadarwah for 10 hours and Kishtwar for 15 hours.

PRC Cultural Delegation Visit Vice President

BK2104012090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] A six-member Chinese cultural delegation led by Vice Minister of Radio, Film, and Television Mr. Ma Qingxiong called on the vice president, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today. The members of the delegation apprised the vice president about the progress of the cultural exchange program between India and China.

Earlier, the delegation called on Information and Broadcasting Minister Mr. P. Upendra.

Union Cabinet Expanded; New Ministers Sworn In

BK2104162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The union Council of Ministers has been expanded with the induction of 13 ministers of state and five deputy ministers. Sixteen new ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy at a ceremony in the glittering Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this evening.

The 11 ministers of state who took oath are: Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, Mr. Rashid Masud, Mr. Satyapal Malik, Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta, Mr. Harikishore Singh, Mr. Subodhkant Sahay, Mr. Bhajuman Bhera, Mr.

Bhagya Gowardhan, Mr. Nitish Kumar, Mr. Upendranath Varma, and Mr. Srikanth Jaina.

The other two ministers of state, Mr. Rampujan Patel and Arangal Shridharan, did not take the oath today.

ALL INDIA RADIO correspondent reports that they were unable to be present for the swearing in as they were away from the capital.

The newly sworn in deputy ministers are: Mr. Ajay Singh, Mr. Anil Shastri, Mr. Jagdip Dhankar, Mr. Bhakta Charan Das, and Mrs. Usha Singh.

Our correspondent reports that with today's expansion the strength of the Council of Ministers has been raised to 40. The ministry had earlier 22 ministers. The portfolios of the new ministers will be announced shortly.

The prime minister has described today's expansion of his ministry as partial. He said some more ministers will be inducted after the current session of Parliament. At an informal talk with newsmen after the swearing in, Mr. V.P. Singh said that his ministry's expansion will give representation to the weaker sections, as well as various regions of the country to fulfill its social commitments. Answering a question, he said there will be no change at the Cabinet-level for the time being.

Besides the prime minister, several union ministers, Members of Parliament and other prominent persons attended the swearing in ceremony.

Portfolios Announced

BK2304082290 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0730 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Portfolios of the newly appointed ministers of state and deputy ministers in the union Council of Ministers have been announced. Minor changes have also been made in the portfolios of some existing Cabinet ministers.

Mr. Janeshwar Mishra will be the minister of state for communications with independent charge.

Mr. Rashid Masud will be minister of state for health and family welfare with independent charge.

Mr. Nilamani Routray, who was earlier holding the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a Cabinet minister, has been shifted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which already has a minister of state, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi.

Portfolios of other ministers of state are:

Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta - Human Resource Development

Mr. Bhajuman Bhera - Petroleum and Chemicals

Mr. Harikishore Singh - External Affairs

Mr. Upendranath Varma - Rural Development in the Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Subodhkant Sahay - Home Affairs

Mr. Satyapal Malik - Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism

Mr. Bhagya Gowardhan - Planning and Program Implementation

Mr. Nitish Kumar - Agriculture and Cooperation

Mr. Srikanth Jainam - Minister of State for Small Scale

Agro

and Rural Industries, a newly created department.

Portfolios of newly appointed deputy ministers are:

Mr. Ajay Singh - Railways,

Mrs. Usha Singh - Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Welfare

Mr. Anil Shastri - Finance

Mr. Bhakta Charan Das - Youth Affairs and Sports

Mr. Jagdip Dhankar - Parliament Affairs.

According to an official announcement in New Delhi today, the prime minister will hold charge of the ministries and departments of defense, personnel, public grievances and pensions, science and technology, atomic energy, electronics, ocean development, space, and any other subject not allocated to any minister.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, announced the portfolios of the new ministers in the Lok Sabha and introduced them to the House.

2 More Ministers Sworn In

BK2304130090 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Two more ministers of state have been sworn in. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Rampujan Patel and Mr. A. Shridharan at a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan this evening. Mr. Patel will be the minister of state for food and civil supplies and Mr. Shridharan will hold the charge of commerce.

13 Killed, 36 Injured in Punjab Bomb Blast

BK1904124890 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, 13 passengers were killed and 36 injured, when a powerful bomb exploded in a Punjab Roadways bus near Pathankot town in Gurdaspur District this afternoon.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the explosion occurred near Pandora village of the town. The ill-fated bus was on its way from Moga to Jammu. The killed included three women. Eighteen of the injured have been admitted to the military hospital and 17 in the civil hospital, Pathankot. One seriously injured passenger has been shifted to Ludhiana.

3 Killed During Police Firing in Uttar Pradesh

BK2004074490 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0730 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, three persons were killed in police firing in the curfew-bound areas in Kanpur last

night. Fifty persons have so far been arrested. House-to-house search is being carried out. The inspector general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that an army flag march is being carried out to generate faith amongst the people.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill 5; Bomb Toll at 15

BK2004082490 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down five persons, including two home guard volunteers, in separate incidents last night [19 April]. According to an official spokesman, terrorists ambushed a home guard party patrolling the Rajpura-Patiala railway track near village (Damkala), killing two volunteers and injuring another. Elsewhere in the State, terrorists shot dead a farmer and his son in village Sanga in Amritsar District and the sarpanch [village headman] of village Kansla in Ropar District.

Meanwhile, with the death of a child and a woman in the hospital last night, the death toll in yesterday's bomb blast in a bus near Pathankot has risen to 15.

14 Injured in Bomb Blast at Congress-I Rally

BK2004163290 *Delhi Doordarshan Television Network*
in English 1600 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Fourteen persons were injured in a bomb blast in front of the West Bengal assembly this afternoon. Among the injured were 11 policemen. The bomb was hurled when some Congress-I supporters led by Miss Mamta Banerjee were demonstrating against price hike and the alleged failure of rationing system in the State. Police resorted to lathi [baton] charge to disperse the demonstrators. The Congress-I MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. Ambike Banerjee, was injured in the lathi charge. Forty persons were arrested.

The Congress-I MLA's staged a walkout from the West Bengal assembly in protest against the speaker's refusal to allow discussion on the alleged price hike of essential commodities in the State.

5 Killed, 17 Injured in Clash With Police

BK2104085790 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0830 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, five persons were killed and 17 others injured in a clash between the police and some people in the Banaswada town of Nizamabad District yesterday. The State home minister, Mr. D. Samarasingha Reddy, informed the State Assembly today that some antisocial elements are responsible for yesterday's clash. The minister said some people had attacked the police station at Banaswada, forcing the police to open fire. The minister said the injured had been admitted to government hospitals.

Iran

Islamic Jihad Urged To Drop Kelly Condition

NC2104074290 *Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT*
21 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, April 21 (AFP)—Iranian officials and Lebanese Shiite Muslims from the Hizballah movement did not meet U.S. officials in Damascus on the fate of Western hostages, an Iranian diplomat told the Syrian news agency Saturday [21 April]. "Reports about meetings in Damascus between Iranian and officials on the one hand, and American officials on the other, are false and deceptive," he was quoted as saying by SANA.

The comments came in the wake of the postponement of the release of a U.S. hostage held by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) which demanded that Washington's top Middle East official fly to Damascus. But President George Bush has said the United States would not give in to conditions from hostage-takers. The IJLP had said it would release one of its hostages, Robert Polhill, Alann Steen or Jesse Turner and its communique Wednesday [18 April] was accompanied by a photograph of Mr. Turner.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry on Friday [20 April] also denied that such meetings took place in Damascus. It said reports quoting a PLO official in Amman that a meeting between a U.S. security delegation, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli—a Hizballah leader in Lebanon—and Mahmud Rafsanjani, brother of the Iranian president, were "without foundation." Seventeen Western hostages, including eight Americans, are believed to be held in Lebanon, most of them by pro-Iranian Shiite groups.

In Tehran, Iran's leading English-language daily, the TEHRAN TIMES, on Saturday appealed to the IJLP to show its good intentions by dropping its insistence that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs John Kelly travel to Damascus before it releases one of its hostages. "The Islamic Jihad should continue to persist with their goodwill intentions and should in their turn consider it sufficient that the U.S. ambassador to Damascus, who was away elsewhere on official duty, good enough to conduct the arrangements for the release of the hostage," the paper said. [sentence as received]

Mr. Kelly said in Washington on Friday that the U.S. Ambassador to Syria Edward P. Djerejian was "fully capable of handling all the details efficiently." Mr. Djerejian has been in close contact with Syrian officials since his return late Thursday [19 April] from Bonn and a meeting with Mr. Kelly and other Middle East ambassadors.

Paper Hails Hostage Release, Hopes for Others*LD2104083490 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT
21 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—An English-language daily Saturday [21 April] hailed the goodwill gesture of the 'Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine' in deciding to release one of the hostages in Lebanon. In an editorial 'TEHRAN TIMES' expressed hope that this move can be a prelude to the release of one more hostage by another group.

"It will be very desirable if the Lebanese Muslim groups take the first step in releasing their hostages," commented the daily. It noted that this move would not only be an Islamic and humanitarian action, but would also test the goodwill of the Western governments and pro-Western and Israeli groups in Lebanon.

"Hurdles there may be on the way, but it is our hope that despite all, the freedom of the hostages can become a reality materializing soon," added the article.

The paper stressed that no doubt "This humanitarian action of the Islamic Jihad will be registered in the history of human rights and will be respected and praised by public opinion the world over."

It concluded by hoping that this initiative will be the key to freedom of all innocent hostages in Lebanon and Israel and that "the year 1990 will be the year of end of all hostage-taking."

Possibility of Second Hostage Release Discussed**Paper Say 'Preparations' Underway***NC2104094590 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT
21 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 21 (AFP)—Preparations for the release of a second Western hostage held in Lebanon are underway, an informed source said here Saturday [21 April].

Earlier, the English-language TEHRAN TIMES said it hoped a clandestine group holding three Americans in Lebanon would carry through a previous announcement by freeing one of them—after a delay. This would be a prelude to the release of one more hostage by another group, it said.

"We should know more by Monday [23 April]," the source who declined to be identified said of the possible release of a second hostage, held by a group other than the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. The source did not specify the hostage's nationality.

On Friday [20 April], State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Washington was hopeful about the release of an American hostage in Lebanon and that Syria had assured it of efforts to make it happen by Saturday or Sunday [22 April].

But the Iranian source warned that Israeli policy was undermining all hopes for the hostages' freedom. "The Israelis are not sincere, they are not playing along," he said without elaborating.

Release To Prove 'Goodwill'*NC2304070190 Paris AFP in English 0656 GMT
23 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 23 (AFP)—The TEHRAN TIMES on Monday [23 April] called for the rapid and unconditional release of a second American hostage. The newspaper, closely linked to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said by doing so the kidnappers would "once more prove their goodwill and preparedness" for a settlement of the hostage crisis.

The call followed Sunday's [22 April] release of Robert Polhill, a 55-year-old university professor, after three years in captivity.

Another American should be freed with "no precondition" the paper said, adding: "This they should do swiftly in order to leave the ball in the other party's court to demonstrate its goodwill if it has any."

The Iranian people and government has no faith in the U.S. administration, it said, adding: "But perhaps it is now time to test President's Bush's claims that 'goodwill begets goodwill'."

Commentary Sees 'Hopeful' Hostage Situation*LD2304123390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1051 GMT 23 Apr 90***[Unattributed commentary]**

[Excerpts] The American hostage released in Lebanon yesterday 22 April said that he had been treated well during the 39 months he had been held captive by the Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Last week, the Islamic Jihad Organization, which has so far remained underground, announced that it would release one of its hostages as a demonstration of its goodwill. [passage omitted]

Analysts believe that the release of Polhill may pave the way for the release of the other hostages, provided the Western governments use their influence to secure the release of other hostages held in Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

In this connection, Dr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who has gone to New York to attend the extraordinary UN session, announced in an interview: We now await the release of all Iranian hostages held in Lebanon and all Lebanese hostages held in Israel, including Shaykh 'Ubayd. Dr. Velayati added: The

release of those people is not a prerequisite for the release of the Western hostages, but it could be a prelude to breaking this deadlock.

Four Iranian nationals were kidnapped by the Lebanese Kata'ib Party in the early days of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, and, according to latest reports, are still alive.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly rejected allegations made by Western propaganda about being involved in hostage-taking and has condemned it. Nevertheless, under suitable circumstances, Iran can, without doubt, use its influence in Lebanon to secure the release of the hostages.

Meanwhile, one should note the conditions which have forced some groups and factions in Lebanon to resort to hostage-taking and dealing blows to Western interests. Those governments which have been subjected to such attacks should change their way of dealing with the people of Lebanon and the region. It also seems that imperialist propaganda monopolies intend to raise the question of a possible deal between certain governments regarding the release of the hostages. Not only does such propaganda disregard facts, but could also delay the release of the rest of the hostages. If this extensive propaganda move continues it may be interpreted that the Western governments may possibly want the hostages to remain in captivity simply to cover some of their problems.

Meanwhile, one should note that due to the pressure caused by the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine, other domestic problems, and the political crisis concerning the formation of a new government, the Zionist regime is in no position to benefit from the release of the hostages, and might bring about the failure of the attempts to secure the release of the hostages by stepping up its aggression against Lebanese Muslims.

It is now up to those Western governments and the United States to demonstrate their goodwill regarding the issue of the hostages. If not disturbed by mistakes made by those same governments, the present conditions appear to be hopeful for the families of the hostages.

Velayati Hopes for Release of Iranian Hostages

AU2304123790 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT
23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Frankfurt, West Germany, April 23 (AFP)—Former hostage Robert Polhill arrived at a U.S. base here on Monday [23 April] and was pronounced in good health as an influential Iranian newspaper called for the swift release of another American in Lebanon. [passage omitted] The TEHRAN TIMES on Monday called for the rapid and unconditional release of a second American hostage. [passage omitted]

At the United Nations in New York, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that following Mr.

Polhill's release Tehran was awaiting the liberation of four Iranians held in Lebanon and of Lebanese prisoners in Israel. But that is not a condition for the release of other Western hostages in the Middle East, he assured AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Israeli commandos kidnapped Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, 32, a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah umbrella group, in southern Lebanon last July.

"We know Western countries, especially the United States, have deep influence in Israel. We do hope that they will use this influence in Israel for releasing hostages," Mr. Velayati said.

UN Chief Discusses Upcoming Iran-Iraq Talks

LD2104084490 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT
21 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 21, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi met with U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar here Friday night [20 April] and discussed issues related to the upcoming Iran-Iraq peace talks. Kharrazi urged Perez de Cuellar to clarify issues related to the peace talks by making use of the strong support he enjoys from the Security Council so that the forthcoming Iran-Iraq peace talks will be fruitful. He also briefed the UN chief on Tehran's viewpoints in connection with Perez de Cuellar's proposed agenda for the talks.

The U.N. secretary general underlined that the UN Resolution 598 on establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq is the most explicit resolution ever adopted by the Security Council. He stressed the need for implementation of the resolution and expressed the hope that the Security Council members employ all their resources to materialize execution of the resolution.

The Iranian envoy said that the U.N. chief is expected to specify and remove all obstacles on the way of implementation of the resolution and single out every means necessary to guarantee fruitfulness of the future talks.

Perez de Cuellar disclosed in the meeting that he is to confer with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq who are expected in New York shortly to participate in the forthcoming special session of the U.N. General Assembly. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is to arrive here Saturday night [21 April] at the head of a delegation to take part in the assembly session and also in extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries.

Velayati Leaves for UN Special Session 21 Apr

LD2104120990 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT
21 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati departed for New York Saturday [21 April] to participate in an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement. Before

his departure, Velayati said while in New York he would also take part in an special session of the U.N. General Assembly on growth and development.

He said the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] foreign ministers were to review the latest political developments in the world and determine the role of the movement during their emergency session called by Yugoslavia. The foreign minister expressed hope that the 102-member movement could play a significant role in the changes sweeping across the world.

During his stay, Velayati said, he and the Iraqi Foreign Minister would hold separate meetings with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He added that the meetings are taking place at de Cuellar's request to enable the U.N. chief and his assistants arrange the new round of peace talks.

On the General Assembly session, he said the issue of growth and development was an issue to which all countries, particularly third world states, attached great importance because in the absence of these two elements it would be impossible to achieve peace and international understanding.

He said many problems now facing the world stemmed from discrimination and imbalance in international equations and relations stressing that as long as a basic solution was not found world peace and understanding would be meaningless.

Paper Denounces FBI 'Inquiry' at IRNA Office

*LD2204192190 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT
22 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Two FBI agents entered the U.N.-based office of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) Friday [20 April] for what they claimed to be an inquiry into the status of the bureau and its staff.

Commenting on the incident, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in a commentary said today the U.S. Administration's stance on such an illegal act has not been yet announced, "but whatever it may be, such an undecent move which is in violation of even the primary internationally-accepted principles is intolerable."

"Is it not true that the United Nations is an international body with its member states operating totally independent from the U.S. government," asked the paper, adding that "how the FBI dares to overstep its authorities and embark on adventurism within the limits of the United Nations."

"The White House thinks that everything should be brought under its control whereas Islamic Iran has trampled upon such a way of thinking," it said.

When the Americans invited the the U.N. to set up its headquarters in New York they promised not to interfere in its affairs while at present we see them breaking their

promise and sending their FBI agents to make an inquiry into the staff of a news agency, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. It added that the agents may have mistaken IRNA for American news agencies and press since the U.S. intelligences services have got, through various means, a grip on the mass media of that country.

"The U.S. mass media is actually responsible for what the White House and other intelligence organizations dictate," said the paper. It added that if the Islamic revolution had treated American reporters in the same way as Washington did towards the IRNA staff, the U.S. would have claimed that Iran subjected foreign mediamen to inquisition, concluding that there was no democracy in the Islamic Republic.

"Anyway, this is not a simple event and the Islamic Republic should not pass by such an illegal action. The United Nations should make necessary inquiry into the issue and announce the results. In case such an event happens again, the nature of the U.N. will go under question to a larger extent."

"The United Nations is expected to take decisive measures against such a blatant aggression in order to prove that it is not under the influence of the U.S. Administration and that it would not allow the repetition of such unpleasant events."

Larijani Speaks on U.S. Policy, Tehran Strategy

*LD2204183390 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT
22 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Mohammad Javad Larijani adviser to Iranian foreign minister says the U.S. is trying to create hard problems for Iran on the home front so that the Islamic Government may not be able to address itself to the outside world. He believes the U.S. is out to harness the Islamic revolution, install a quasi-moderate government in Iran, and harness a united Europe in future which, in Larijani's judgment, will badly need the Persian Gulf oil for its economic livelihood.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official believes Washington is consolidating an anti-Iran front of Persian Gulf Arab states, and strongly recommends that the Islamic Republic take the initiative in battling US schemes rather than postpone counteraction until such time as plots have got off the ground. He says the Islamic Republic should arrive at well-defined principles in her relations with the Arab world on which to build up relations with the Arab states.

As guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Islamic Association of Iranian Engineers in Tehran Saturday night [21 April] Dr. Larijani said that Iran's foreign policy should be based on 'dignity, philosophy, and taqiyah'—an Arabic word literally meaning 'the right, practice or the habit of concealing one's religion because of threat of censorship or persecution.' He used the word

in its extended sense to mean a deliberate withholding of beliefs and judgments because of the political dictates of the time.

RESALAT, which carried his remarks in its today's issue, said Larijani spoke for an unlimited elbow room for the supreme religious protector (vali-ye faqih) in the Islamic Republic, saying that to protect the 'umm ol-qora' (mother of all Muslim towns—and by extension: Iran) the vali-ye faqih should have considerable elbow-room to maneuver.

Referring to Iran-Iraq disputes he said Iran should seek to resolve the problem with Iraq by resorting to a two-pronged strategy incorporating 'both the military and a dynamic diplomacy.' He said Iraq is a potential threat to Iran because the ruling government in that country means to become superior to Iran, police the Persian Gulf, and godfather the Arab world.

Larijani suggested that Iran would do better to adopt 'a regional strategy' for her security, mend relations with the Arab world, and solidify her connection line with Turkey and Pakistan and prevent the formation of an Arab front against Iran, and try a 'regional device' for her security.

Tehran 'Ready To Negotiate' on Pilgrimage Issue

LD2004135190 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami in an address to the participants in a massive rally here to mark the Qods [Jerusalem] Day said he believed that a fundamental solution to the issue of Iranian Hajj pilgrims can be achieved through good will and realism. "Iran is ready to negotiate," he noted.

Speaking at the Tehran University where the Qods Day demonstrators converged, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami said "The 'International Qods Day' is an occasion to show that the Qods occupying regime will only be eliminated through reliance on Islamic beliefs, that the Palestinian cause is not a question only related to the Palestinian people but to the Islamic world, and finally that Qods will be liberated by the will of the nations not by their compromising government." He added that the motto of the Islamic Republic is to fight against the world arrogance whose key base is in Israel.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami continued that the usurper Zionist regime was established out of deep hatred by the West against Islam and that the arrogance was aware that Islam and its identity were major barricades to their imperialistic aims. "The survival of the Israeli regime is possible only under the auspices of the world arrogance, headed by the U.S., and of the Arab reactionary regimes," he pointed out.

The minister also referred to the role played by the lackey and reactionary regimes in quelling the Islamic

movements and discouraging the Muslim public opinion from confrontation with Israel. He deplored that they had substituted the motto to fight against Israel with the one to peacefully coexist with the usurper regime. "The Arab leaders and compromising elements are begging the Zionist regime for peace."

"Israel, the U.S. and compromising reactionaries are now faced with a serious danger and that is the danger of the Islamic revolution and the uprising by the Palestinian oppressed nation in the occupied territories," he said.

Khatami also assured the participants in the Qods Day rally that the present Iraq-Israel rhetoric on the issue of chemical weapons is aimed at undershadowing the Palestinian Islamic uprising.

Elsewhere in his address he condemned the Saudi regime for massacre of hajj pilgrims in Mecca and for hampering the Iranian pilgrims from going to Mecca to perform their religious duties. He voiced the belief the "the present hue and cry by the Saudi regime on the eve of hajj pilgrimage is meant to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic to do away with its Islamic and revolutionary principles."

"Islamic Iran will never deviate from its Islamic principles but instead is prepped to negotiate directly or indirectly," he announced. "We believe that a fundamental solution can be achieved provided that good will and realism exist."

He said "the Saudi impediments were aimed at preventing the culmination of the Islamic revolution and hampering the Islamic duty to show antipathy toward pagans."

The Hojjat ol-Eslam recalled that the antipathy demonstrations in Mecca when hundreds of pilgrims were gunned down by the Saudi police, were extensively welcomed by the Palestinian Muslims, 30 of whom were martyred. He further noted that the uprising in Palestine started when the Palestinians marked the 40th day of the martyrdom of those massacred in Mecca.

Editorial Decries Dispute

NC2104113690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 15 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Don't Forget the Saudis on Qods Day"]

[Text] The holy month of Ramadan being a special month for worship there are several supplications that are recited after the daily prayers and at night.

In almost all these special hymns and supplications hajj pilgrimage is particularly mentioned. There is one supplication known as 'Do'a-ye hajj,' prayers for pilgrimage. The worshipper prays to God for granting him the opportunity to visit the holy Ka'bah this year and every year for performing the hajj pilgrimage.

The reason is that for a Muslim hajj is the highest and the most sacred act of worship. When a Muslim fasts from dawn to dusk in Ramadan he is aware that he is obeying the command of God and doing what he is expected to do. However, fasting is considered to be a high type of worship, second only to hajj. By reciting daily the special prayers in which a worshipper prays to God for including his name among the pilgrims of Ka'bah the importance of performing hajj becomes known. Moreover, Ramadan being the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, Muslims who recite the Do'a-ye hajj get reminded that it is time for making preparations to go to Mecca for participating in the hajj rituals.

Unfortunately the Iranian Muslims following the Mecca massacre in 1987 are deprived of their rights to visit Mecca in the hajj season. Acting against God's command the al-Sa'ud regime barred Iranian Muslims from performing hajj. There are several verses in the holy Koran which clearly state that no one is authorized to stop a Muslim from entering Mecca to take part in the yearly hajj rituals in the month of Dhu-al-Hajjah.

Of course much has been said and written on this subject. Many conferences and seminars have been held in different parts of the Muslim world. On April 11, 140 Majles deputies in an open letter to the Islamic world and ulema called for removal of the obstacles on the way of Iranian hajj pilgrims to Mecca created by al-Sa'ud.

The Majles deputies stated that the Saudi regime should accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to Mecca this year, and agree to the holding of antipathy rallies against the enemies of Islam. The deputies also demanded that the Saudis should confess about the massacre of pilgrims—guests of God—they carried out on July 31, 1987. That day more than 400 pilgrims, most of them Iranians, were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Saudi troops in the vicinity of Ka'bah.

This act of the Saudis, barring the Iranian Muslims from entering Mecca for performing their religious obligation, is as blasphemous and un-Islamic as the occupation of Palestine by the Zionists. We hope that the Iranian masses that will protest against Zionist atrocities in Palestine on Qods [Jerusalem] Day, the last Friday of Ramadan [20 April], will not forget to condemn the Saudis for what they did in Mecca in 1987, as well as their creating obstacles on the way of the Iranian hajj pilgrims.

International Jerusalem Day Observed in Tehran

President Delivers Sermon

NC2004145790 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1120 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Friday sermon in Arabic by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 20 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God. Blessings and peace be upon the prophet of God and his associates and pious followers.

The Muslim Iranian people are today staging a magnificent scene of support for the oppressed Palestinian people. This is the 11th time the Muslims of Iran and many faithful Muslims in other countries have displayed their (?solidarity) and their Muslim interest in the Palestinian issue on the basis of the decision of the founder of the Iranian Islamic Republic. The enthusiasm, fervor, and mass presence of the people on this occasion are indicative of the Islamic nation's desire and unending love for this issue. If the leaders of other states followed Iranian officials in permitting freedom of expression, such enthusiasm would be evident in all parts of the Islamic world and in many atheist countries.

It is self-evident that atheism and its agents who support Israel want to hide the truth from the peoples of the world. For this reason, these atheists are using all their resources to censor news about International Jerusalem Day. They often try to fabricate an incident to overshadow the news of this day. It is not unusual for world atheism to carry out such actions. The similar measures which are being taken by countries which profess to follow Islam are unexpected and cannot be justified, because if they allowed the peoples to raise together the same slogan on this day and express this general Islamic wish to the whole world, combating Israel and saving Palestine would be a very easy matter. This was the aim of the departed imam, may his soul be sanctified. However, the agents of imperialism who exercise censorship will not be able to hide the desire and love of the Islamic nation. This reality will be manifested one day, and the contradiction suffered by Western arrogance will become clear. Western arrogance will be compelled to choose between two bitter alternatives: Either choose the Islamic world and totally reject Zionism, the result of which will be the liberation of Palestine, or choose Zionism and total isolation from the Islamic world, which will be followed by renaissance and comprehensive awareness in the Islamic world, total defiance of fear, and chopping off the hands of Western arrogance.

I take refuge in God from the condemned Satan; in the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. When comes the help of God, and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord, and pray for His forgiveness: For He is oft-returning (in grace and mercy). [Koranic verses] God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Second Sermon on Western 'Influence'

LD2004182190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1210 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 20 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In my second sermon, I would like refer to the glorious Armed Forces Day and the memory of the great martyrs of that outstanding organ of the Islamic system. The main topic today is, however, Jerusalem Day, Palestine and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

It has been said many times, and you know it. The main objective here is for the West to maintain an official and serious presence among Islamic countries. They know that one day the Muslim world will rise. They believe this and all their analyses reach the same conclusion: That these 1 or 1.2 billion Muslims in the world, whose number is fast growing—because of the cultural essence of Islam which connects them, the effects of which have been seen in history, showing that they will join forces under certain conditions—one day, most, if not all, Muslims will end the West's arrogant presence in the Muslim world. They consider their arrogant presence here necessary.

Of course, their presence here is in different forms: in the first place, by way of infiltrating various countries and setting up puppet governments that pursue their arrogant aims. In colonial days they were officially here as colonialists. Since the days of colonialism they have maintained their influence through agents who carry out their wishes.

Then they have economic, cultural, and other means of maintaining their influence. But all that is not enough for them. They want this type of presence; they want military presence.

In fact, the government of Israel is considered as a military base for them and should remain here; and the policy is—this is an interesting point—the policy is that Israel should always be ahead of the Islamic countries of the region in military terms. They always say this quite impudently. For instance, if they sell something to Arabia, in their debates at the U.S. Congress or elsewhere they expalin that it is still so far behind Israel. The same point is raised if they give something to Iraq. In the days when they were arming the shah of Iran here—although the shah of Iran was an ally of Israel and was serving their interests—they were always guessing that some day the Islamic country of Iran might become a nuisance, they were always trying to keep Israel's hand superior over every one else's. They are continuing this policy in full.

Their strategy in dealing with the military issues in the region, therefore, is to have a military base which others are always afraid of. This certainly includes the present territory of Israel, which at the present is not more than about 20,000 square kilometers, excluding the two narrow strips which are currently called the occupied territories and which make the total territory 27,000 or 28,000 kilometers, that is the entire area of Palestine. They realize this small area is not sufficient. The plan in the beginning was not to stay here, either. They have gotten stuck here for the time being. You see, therefore,

that they are seriously pursuing the issue of Jewish migration. Even the present population figure in Israel exceeds the capacity of this territory. The territory is under strain. The fact that they are planning to bring millions of Jews from all over the world again, and they have satisfied the Soviets to give them this permission, and I read in the news today that the wave of migration toward Palestine has started from Argentina—this shows that they still have their original objective in mind, which they had said before. It is a famous saying: from the Euphrates River to the river Nile. The Nile River is in Egypt, and the Euphrates River is in Iraqi territory. But as to how far around the Euphrates—perhaps they mean all the area west to south of the Euphrates. That is, their borders become the Euphrates River on one side, and the Nile River on the other. If that were to happen, naturally the northern region of Saudi Arabia would become part of this territory, too; and a large section of the Red Sea coast is within this boundary; it would then become a vast area, which in their opinion, by settling there 10 to 12 million Jews, plus some other people that they will bring, could become a mighty and invincible state. That is, they have such a plan, but how far they will succeed in implementing it in the future depends on us, and to what extent we can properly defend the rights of the people of Palestine. This plan has so far progressed naturally, except for some ups and downs. That is, the plan has always pursued an evolutionary course. Their last move occurred in the year 1967, when they captured some of the territory; and lately they violated Lebanon's territory and advanced 12 km into the southern region of Lebanon and reached a river, a particular border which they always had in mind. It is clear that the move is pursuing such goals.

If they were to succeed one day in realizing their objective of extending Israel's borders from the Euphrates to the Nile—this slogan is written on a tablet hanging inside Israel's parliament, the Knesset, too—if such a thing were to happen, the tragedy would become much deeper than what we have today. But whether they can succeed or not depends on the Islamic communities. Unfortunately, the Islamic communities have, through their behavior so far, paved the way for the Westerners. Frankly, it is infuriating and disgusting that in this era of awareness, of the awakening and revolt of the nations, the Islamic communities are responding to this problem in the manner that we are observing now. It is too bad; it is very humiliating.

The basic problem in facing the Western arrogance is the point that I mention here: At the time when the Marxists, the Soviet bloc, were present, Western arrogance faced a different problem from the one they face today. Western arrogance previously needed to win over public opinion in the Islamic world vis-a-vis the infiltration of Marxism. This need was in contradiction to the need to protect Israel. If they wished to win the Muslims' public opinion, Israel's presence was contradictory to public opinion. [sentence as heard] If they wanted to protect Israel, they could not win over the public opinion of the

Islamic world. Winning public opinion is different from winning the support of the governments. This is important to them. In the past, they resolved this contradiction by means of a very cowardly and ugly method. They created distracting hostilities in the Islamic world and made Muslims fight one another. Instead of thinking of the Palestine-Israel problem as their main problem, the Muslims would then think of other problems as their main problem. The last example of these was the Iran-Iraq war. You saw that in the course of this war almost all the countries of the region depicted the danger from Islam. One has to be very naive and gullible to believe that Iran, Islam, is a threat against them.

Does Islamic revolution pose a danger to some heads of governments? That is possible. I do not want to say that is unlikely.

If they want to say that, then very well, any revolution which takes place anywhere poses a danger to such governments, which the revolution overthrows. But that danger does not face nations, countries, people's prosperity. It faces some, a party, a band, a family, a person, a commander, or someone.

They brought that to people's attention and followed it up with a great deal of propaganda to divert public opinion, which you saw and experienced yourselves clearly. All oppositions were resolved in order to stop the Islamic revolution of Iran from continuing its path to revive Islam in the world. Those kinds of contradictions are always there. The problem of Kashmir remains unresolved in the region, for the same reason. They have preserved it. The differences between Bangladesh and Pakistan have remained unresolved for that same reason. The problems have remained just the same in the Far East. Various opposing centers are kept up in Africa. Secular governments are created and supported in the region for the same purpose; that is, to create differences, oppositions, and minor confrontations, so that Islamic nations do not consider that as their tangible, everyday issue. Very well, that is a satanic and hypocritical policy, which has succeeded so far. But will that policy remain a successful policy? Will it always be so? That is debatable. That is worth reviewing.

Let us suppose the Eastern bloc has gone out of the world political equation. Then a new element must have replaced it. That is, the exit of the Eastern bloc and Marxism from the active historical scene took place in a manner whereby nations replaced it. In that region now, it is the age of nations. Very well, if nations replaced the Eastern bloc, and those nations govern, then that is a positive logic, and should not give cause for the westerners to be happy. They are in fact worried about the future. If it is nations that matter, and if it is the age of nations, then the trick of getting the governments of the Islamic region to confront one another becomes a bit difficult, and a new situation will evolve. That is our duty—the duty of the media in the world of Islam, the duty of preachers, writers, artists, radio and television and the press, poets, Friday imams—to explain the

realities to people, and inform them and make them aware and able to recognize the true interests of Islam and the region.

Today in our region there is no other danger greater than that of Israel, and there is no trouble greater than that of Israel for the world of Islam. Also for us, defending Islam, there is no duty as important as that of Jihad and resistance against the usurper Israel. [shouts of "God is great," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel"]

Unfortunately, many of the rulers in the world of Islam, even though they understand the reality, do not act. Presently we have witnessed the involvement of the Egyptian rulers in the emigration of Jews to Palestine. They have admitted it. That is not a treason that can be explained, apart from what is directly involved in the matter and other issues that you are aware of. If nations become aware, then in my opinion the West will not be able to resolve its contradictions. It has to choose between either Israel or the world of Islam. Choosing Israel instead of choosing the world of Islam is a foolish and unacceptable act. If the Islamic nation becomes aware... [changes thought] Let us imagine they bring together 12 million Zionists, let us imagine they expand—still it is impossible to do much against so many countries and so many nations and so many resources. If the nations insist on one goal, and are aware. If the ummah all choose one path.

In any case if, God willing, as it seems, we are on the threshold of the age of nations and not of governments, and if we are progressing toward a reasonable level of awareness in the Islamic ummah, then we should accept that the West is bound to stop its support for Israel in the future. Even if it means rejecting colonialism to have a peaceful life with the Islamic world, which provides at least something to their interests, they should prefer to choose Islam and not Israel. But if the same unacceptable situation—the rule of wrong ideology and the promotion of deviant ideology in Islamic societies—continues, and the control over Islamic culture remains in the hands of the same persons intoxicated with the West that we see ruling parts of the Islamic world, then there is still room for the same kinds of actions and maneuvers of Western arrogance. We hope, God willing, that their time is up.

'Millions' Demonstrate in Streets

*LD2004150190 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT
20 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Millions of fasting Iranians throughout the country in the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan [20 April] poured into the streets this morning to demonstrate their hatred against Zionist regime and the world Zionism and their determination to liberate Beyt al-Moqaddas [Jerusalem].

Last Friday of Ramadan was declared the 'International Qods Day' by the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni in 1979 after establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran.

Mass participation by the Iranian Muslims in the magnificent Qods Day demonstrations this year in support of the Palestinian oppressed people took place in response to a call by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. The Iranian people once more proved that they are not ready to set back even one step in their fight against the occupiers of Qods.

In the capital, the demonstrators thronged into the Tehran University and its surrounding streets where Friday congregational prayer is held. They called on all revolutionaries in Islamic countries and on all deprived and oppressed people of the world to move towards liberation of al-Aqsa mosque and defend the rights of the Palestinian nation.

In their slogans, they announced that they are resolute and steadfast in securing the achievements of the Islamic revolution and supporting the world oppressed nations. The participants in the demonstration, from all layers of the society chanted the well-known slogans 'Death to Israel', 'Death to America', 'Death to the world Zionism' and various other ones. Massive presence of the revolutionary people and their expression of hatred against Zionism and Israel were reminiscent of epic scenes witnessed in other events such as the Feb. 11 anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

The demonstrators pledged to mark the day each year as their late leader wanted so. They shouted that the Baghdad ruler and other reactionary Arab leaders were responsible for the delay in liberation of Qods.

U.S., Zionism, Saudis Condemned

LD2004150990 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—The Tehran residents who rallied through the streets of the capital to mark the International Qods [al-Quds—Jerusalem] Day Friday [20 April] called on all freedom-loving and oppressed people of the world to prepare for a battle against global arrogance and Zionism. In a resolution read at the end of the rally, they also condemned the cold-blooded massacre of Muslims in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Kashmir and elsewhere in the world, and expressed their disgust at the superpowers' alliance in suppressing defenceless Muslims. The marchers also proposed that Iranian officials open an international banking account to collect contributions by Muslims to the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist regime.

Lashing out at the Saudi dynasty for barring Iranian Muslims from performing their hajj pilgrimage, the resolution warned the Riyadh regime of the grave consequences the continuation of its anti-Islamic act would bring it.

'The continuation of this anti-Islamic act would only make Muslims more familiar to the Saudi dynasty's ill intentions and lead to an uprising aimed at avenging the blood of hundreds of martyred pilgrims...and cutting the blood-stained hands of the al-Sa'ud from the holy sanctuaries,' it warned.

The marchers also described the U.S. as 'criminal, a center for plotting against genuine Islam, and an staunch supporter of the Zionist regime.'

'The Muslim people of Iran by treading the path drawn by their great imam have stood against the plots of this blood-thirsty superpower (U.S.) and will never retreat from this sacred trench,' it vowed.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Government Allows Union, Averts Phone Strike

BK2104103490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT
21 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 21 (AFP)—The coalition government headed by Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has agreed to allow the formation of an independent trade union to help boost Nepalese workers' morale and efficiency, an official said here Saturday [21 April]. More than 5,000 workers from various industries in the Kathmandu area went on strike Friday [20 April] demanding job security, wage increases, housing allowances, health services and insurance.

"We will see how their realistic demands could be met with," said Nilambar Acharya, the new minister for labour and social welfare. He said it was impossible to fulfill all the workers' requests, "but we will try to meet most of the genuine demands," he said.

The majority of the workers are from the Balaju industrial estate in Kathmandu's suburbs, where more than 99 per cent of privately run factories operate.

Mr. Acharya said the workers were also demanding the right to form "an independent trade union for the welfare of the labourers and to help develop their skills." That right was denied for the last 30 years of autocratic partyless rule in the country, which underwent reform under public pressure nearly two weeks ago, observers said.

"We are going to discuss with the entrepreneurs also as to how far they could meet the grievances of the labourers and record the problems of the industrialists," he said.

Political observers here said labourers and employees of various government-controlled corporations were threatening to take their protests to the streets to express their grievances.

Meanwhile, a strike by the Nepal Telecommunications (NTC) employees was called off late Friday when the majority of their demands were met, a senior official of the NTC said.

"We have been negotiating with our staff and the communications minister... and the minister has agreed to fulfill almost all their demands," the official said.

Among other concessions, NTC management agreed to pay a 45 percent cost of living increase, a 950 rupees (35 U.S. dollars) transportation allowance and a luncheon and housing allowance. It also agreed to an educational allowance for a maximum of two children for all employees, the source said.

Premier Meets Indian Envoy, Discusses Ties

*BK2204134090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Apr 90*

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, has expressed the hope that the outstanding problems between India and Nepal will be resolved soon. Mr. Bhattarai made these remarks when the Indian ambassador, Lieutenant General S.K. Sinha, called on him in Kathmandu today. The meeting took place in a most cordial atmosphere and it has been described as a courtesy call. Both agreed that with the coming into power of a democratic government in Nepal, the time is favorable for improving Indo-Nepal relations.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, understands that Mr. Bhattarai has proposed a meeting with the Indian prime minister, V.P. Singh, to resolve the year-long impasse in relations between the two countries.

Minister, Police Chief Held by 'Angry Mob'

*BK2304090090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT
23 Apr 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, April 23 (AFP)—An angry mob held Nepal's home minister and police chief captive here Monday [23 April] to protest against alleged police excesses since the formation of the new government, witnesses said. The crowd of more than 10,000 held the two senior officials for six hours after they had arrived to inspect the scene of a bloody early morning clash between residents and a group of 21 men dressed as police, they said. The witnesses said the mob beat to death several of the men, who were riding in government vans and four-wheel drive jeeps that were stopped and torched.

Residents alleged that the "mandales," or hired hooligans, were being used by hardliners of the ousted government to try to tarnish the image of Nepal's first multiparty government in 30 years that was named last week.

The crowd held Home Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyaya and Inspector General of Police Hem Bahadur Singh,

demanding severe punishment for alleged police excesses. The two officials were later released and driven to Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's office followed by the demonstrators, witnesses said.

The mob was apparently not angry at the newly-appointed government but at the police for ignoring reports of intimidation by groups of youths who have been terrorizing the capital in the last week. The youths were allegedly hired by hardliners of Nepal's former government under the partyless panchayat system, which was dissolved by King Birendra after eight weeks of pro-democracy protests. More than 30 localities in Kathmandu had as a result set up "volunteer guards" armed with homemade weapons to patrol the streets against possible attacks.

Harsha Ram Dangol, a leader of one of the citizen watchdog groups, said the vehicles carrying the "police" were filled with firearms, bricks, batons, khukuri (foot-long Nepalese knives) and rope.

The group was said to be trained in martial arts under the Nepal Sports Council and reportedly brutally attacked students at different colleges here during the two-month democracy movement.

Pakistan

Secretary Denies Support for Kashmir 'Uprising'

*BK2104112690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, has said there is absolutely no Pakistani support for the uprising in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In an interview with BBC, he said it has been attested by numerous Indian observers and journalists that the uprising is entirely an indigenous phenomenon of momentous significance and magnitude. He categorically said that there is absolutely no flow of arms from the Pakistan side of the Line of Control, either by the government or by any non-governmental agency or Afghan mujahidin.

The foreign secretary said the situation in Kashmir needs imaginative political initiative which should come from New Delhi. Pakistan, he said, is ready to discuss the Kashmir issue in any meeting or at any forum at any level to deescalate tension between Pakistan and India.

Referring to the forthcoming meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in New York, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, said there is no fixed agenda and anything raised by either side could be discussed.

Group Urges UN To Ensure Human Rights in Kashmir

*BK2104112890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] The chairman of the Human Rights Committee for Kashmir, and a former foreign minister, Mr. Agha

Shahi, has said the committee has urged the UN secretary general to intercede with the Indian authorities to ensure that the Indian Armed Forces act strictly in accordance with principles of human rights in occupied Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the committee earnestly appealed to Mr. Perez de Cuellar to arrange the delivery of food, medical, and other essential supplies to Kashmiris to avert starvation and death.

Report of Clash With Indian Troops Denied

*BK2104154190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has described as untrue a report in a section of the press claiming that Pakistan and Indian troops have clashed in the Rann of Kutch. He said in Islamabad today that the report is completely baseless and false. The spokesman added that the report quoting All India Radio, also spoke of Pakistani troop movements in the area. The entire report, he said, is without foundation.

Official To Ask India To Suspend Troop Movements

*BK2204111690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT
22 Apr 90*

[Report by Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, April 22 (AFP)—A top advisor to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan plans to ask India to pull back troops it claims have been placed near its border in preparation for war. "We would like to suggest (to) them to reverse the military movement taking place only on the Indian side," Iqbal Akhund, Ms. Bhutto's advisor on foreign affairs and national security, said in an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Saturday [22 April]. India and Pakistan, which have fought two wars over Kashmir, have both denied massing troops along their common border.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Indian counterpart Inder Kumar Gujral are to meet in New York Tuesday [24 April] or Wednesday [25 April] during a United Nations General Assembly meeting.

Mr. Akhund said the talks will focus on Indo-Pakistan relations, which have plunged to their lowest level since a secessionist campaign in India's only Moslem-majority state of Kashmir flared up in January. New Delhi has accused Islamabad of arming and training militants there. Islamabad has denied the charge but vowed to extend moral support to the "freedom fighters." Former Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has warned the negotiating countries against concluding any agreement without the involvement of Kashmiri militants. "We recognise that we cannot (sit) down and resolve the issue of such a nature" overnight, said Mr. Akhund who had also served as a top Pakistani diplomat at the United Nations.

Starting from the arrangements existing at the time of partition of the sub-continent that left Kashmir undecided, there were a series of peace agreements besides the U.N. resolution calling for a plebiscite, he said. "We have offered to discuss and resolve the problem in that framework," Mr. Akhund said. He said the two sides can work on reducing tension and remove the danger of war caused by "war-like statements and war-like movements."

Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh's call to his nation last week to be "psychologically prepared for war" with Pakistan had aggravated the situation, he said. The threats made to Pakistan perhaps emanated from the political situation in India, where Mr. Singh's coalition faces strong opposition, he said. Perhaps he was also compelled to issuing warnings as "they were not able to dominate the Kashmiris," he added.

"Perhaps they think that if they intimidate Pakistan they can intimidate Kashmiris," Mr. Akhund said. "We have reacted by a heightened readiness. As you can see, we have not moved our troops so far," he said. But "let us move back to a normal frame of mind," he added.

"Let us not be psychologically prepared for war. Let us be psychologically prepared for a peaceful settlement of the problem," he suggested. "I think this sort of psychological preparation would be better for both countries," he said, asking Indian leaders to avoid using what he described as harsh language.

Mr. Gujral, during his 24-hour stopover in London, said "we are meeting with a view to easing tension" and to resolve issues in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. But he vowed his country's position on Indian rule of Kashmir, where a pro-independence movement has left some 400 people dead so far this year, remains "non-negotiable."

Mr. Akhund sought to dispel the impression in the West that troubles in the southern Soviet republics, a movement for Moslem rule in Afghanistan, and the unrest in China's Xinjiang region were part of "Islamic self-determination."

"Self-determination is not Islamic" only, he said, adding that if a plebiscite were held in Kashmir, the Hindu and Buddhist minorities would vote with the Moslems. "Islamic assertion" is not a "threat to anybody," he said.

IJI Blamed for Attempt on Party Leader's Life

*BK2204121490 Lahore THE NATION in English
22 Apr 90 p 10*

[Text] Lahore—Maulana Tahirul Qadri, Chief of Pakistan Awami Tehrik [PAT], alleged that leading leaders of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] were involved in the attack on him in the early hours of Saturday [21 April] morning.

Addressing a Press conference here, he said IJI leaders used the members of their subordinate organisations for the attack in which automatic weapons were used.

He said he escaped the attempt as he went out of the room minutes before the firing that started at 01:15.

He said increasing popularity of PAT was a threat to IJI in Punjab, therefore, they wanted to eliminate the PAT leadership.

Criticising the law and order situation in Punjab, he alleged that the Punjab Government was providing protection to dacoits [robbers] and murderers. He said the recent proposal to confiscate the licensed Kalashnikovs was based on mala fide. He said it was an attempt to give a free hand to dacoits and murderers who have a large number of unlicensed weapons.

He said the gooda [antisocial] elements and the armed workers of purchased MNAs [members of National Assembly] and MPAs [members of Provincial Assemblies] were involved in creating law and order situation in the province.

Leaders Assure Afghan Mujahidin of Support

BK2304024290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto assured Afghan mujahidin of Pakistan's moral and political support to find a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue. At a meeting in Islamabad yesterday evening, mujahidin leaders apprised the president and the prime minister of the plans to elect a new broad-based shura [consultative assembly]. This meeting was held on the occasion of a fast breaking dinner party which was hosted by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the Afghan Interim Government leaders.

The dinner was attended by President Sebgatullah Mojaddedi and members of the Afghan Interim Government. The Afghan mujahidin leader, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, was also present on the occasion. They discussed the situation in Afghanistan and various steps to expedite the efforts to find a political solution to the issue.

10 People Injured in Rawalpindi Market Bombing

BK2004004690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2027 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, April 19 (AFP)—At least 10 people were injured, two seriously, when a bomb exploded at a market here Thursday [19 April], police and hospital sources said, in the latest in a series of bombings in Pakistan. The bomb was left in a gutter in the middle of Sabzi Mandi market, which was packed at the time of the explosion as the population prepared to break its all-day fast for Ramadan, police said. One of the two seriously injured shoppers was in a "hopeless" condition late Thursday, according to a doctor at the hospital here where most of the injured were taken.

This is the fifth bomb attack in Pakistan in four days. The worst, on Wednesday [18 April], left three dead and 40 injured in Parachinar, near the border with Afghanistan. A bomb went off in nearby Peshawar on Thursday morning, killing two people and injuring one, while another explosion Monday [16 April] seriously damaged a bus in Islamabad, although nobody was injured. On Monday, another blast was reported near the post office in Rawalpindi. Responsibility is rarely claimed for bombings in Pakistan. Earlier this week, Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan asked the police to increase their vigilance during the current rising tension with India over Kashmir.

Attack Kills 2 in Baluchistan; 110 Detained

BK2204101090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Some miscreants fired at a pickup near Turbat in Baluchistan yesterday evening, killing two and injuring eight people. The condition of three injured is reportedly serious. According to a press note issued by the district magistrate, the incident occurred after an attack on the worshiping place of [word indistinct] situated on (Koh-i-Murad). The law enforcement agencies had to fire in the air and use tear gas to disperse the unruly mob. Nearly 110 people have been arrested.

Sri Lanka

Troops To Stop Offensive Operations Against JVP

BK1904162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has ordered the security forces to stop all offensive operations against the Sinhala extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, JVP, from tomorrow [20 April]. This was stated by the plantation industries minister and cabinet spokesman, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, in Colombo today. The minister said the police will, however, continue its normal operations against the extremists.

Mr. Wijeratne reiterated his government's stand that it will not go in for any confrontation with the dominant Tamil militants belonging to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

Government Makes Announcement

BK2004112590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of plantation industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen that the security forces will stop military operations with effect from today. He added that the Government, which is holding peace talks with the LTTE, would also begin talks soon with the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. He added that there will be no

offensive operations by the security forces and police will continue with their normal duties in maintaining law and order.

The minister of rehabilitation, reconstruction and social welfare, A.M.S. Adikari, in a memorandum to the cabinet states that the total cost of damages to public property during the crisis period in the country other than the Northeast Province amounts to 935.66 million rupees. The government will seek foreign assistance to meet this expenditure. All ministries have been directed to set apart 25 percent of their capital budget for rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

A surrender committee will start functioning from today. This is recommendation of the Youth Commission. It will have 10 members from 10 political parties. Mr. Bradman Wejekoona [minister for public administration] told newsmen yesterday that the first meeting of this committee will be held today. It will be presided over by President Premadasa. The functions of this committee will be to receive surrenders [surrendering persons] and attend to their needs as recommended in the Youth Commission report. The committee will operate at national and district levels. General Cyril Ranatunge, secretary of defense, pointed out that those who are still hiding due to fear or any other reason would be able to make use of this opportunity and surrender and get themselves rehabilitated and return to society as good citizens. He also pointed out that no one should have any fear in surrendering as they would well looked after.

Iranian President's Special Envoy Begins Visit

*BK2004120490 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 20 Apr 90*

[Text] The supreme adviser to the Iranian president, Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri, arrived this morning as a special envoy of the Iranian president, Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He is expected to deliver a special message to

President R. Premadasa. The special message, according to embassy sources, is concerning the appreciation by the Iranian head of state toward President Premadasa's decision to wind up the Israeli interest section from Sri Lanka.

On arrival, he was met by the Iranian charge d'affaires, (A.R. Farajrad) and Foreign Ministry officials. The special envoy, who was accompanied by the director of the South Asia Division of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, (Ali Musavi), will meet the prime minister, the speaker and several other ministers during his stay in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Embassy held a meeting in connection with the (?International Jerusalem) Day this afternoon. This day has been declared by Iran soon after the Islamic revolution for the liberation of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the first national mosque in Jerusalem. The visiting envoy and several Sri Lankan speakers addressed the meeting.

U.S. Embassy Israeli Interest Section Terminated

*BK2104115890 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received confirmation from the U.S. Embassy in Colombo that the Israeli Interest Section which was functioning in their embassy was duly terminated last Thursday [19 April]. The Ministry has also been informed that the Israeli personnel attache there too had left Sri Lanka.

President Premadasa decided on the 20th of March this year to terminate the Israeli Interest Section functioning in the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. In communicating his decision to the foreign minister, the president said that the termination of the Israeli Interest Section was one of his election pledges. Mr. Premadasa directed the foreign minister to instruct the secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take appropriate action to terminate the Israeli Interest Section before yesterday.